Chickasaw Times

Official publication of the Chickasaw Nation

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Metal Mayhem effort pays off

Chickasaw robotics team to national competition

Governor Bill Anoatubby with Metal Mayhem team members and mentors at the FIRST Robotics Regional Competition in Oklahoma City following the team's qualifying for the FIRST Robotics National Competition.

The first Ada-area robotics team, Metal Mayhem, qualified for the For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST) Robotics National Competition April 17-19 in Atlanta, Georgia.

Metal Mayhem was one of 39 teams competing at the FIRST Robotics Regional Competition at the Cox Convention Center in Oklahoma City March 20-22, with 17 veteran teams and 22 rookie teams. Metal Mayhem was one of the rookie teams competing.

At the regional competition, the team was awarded the Rookie All Star Award, the most prestigious rookie award in the robotics competition.

"We are proud of the hard work and dedication Metal Mayhem has shown with the FIRST Robotics project," said Governor Bill Anoatubby. "We congratulate them on receiving the coveted Rookie All Star Award."

The competition was set up with a tournament play format. Teams collect points and advance after each match. The robots competed through team alliances, with two teams paired for each match. A blue team alliance and a red team alliance competed, gaining as many points as possible in a certain amount of time by navigating through the course, moving and

*See **Metal Mayhem,** page 43*

Hundreds pay respects to Lighthorse Police officer

Lighthorse Special Agent Robert Flickinger

MADILL, Okla. - Hundreds of members of law enforcement, friends, colleagues and family members of a fallen Chickasaw Nation Lighthorse Police officer gathered in Madill March 12 to honor a man who was described as dedicated and loyal.

Robert Patrick (Pat) Flickinger died Friday, March 7 in a two-vehicle crash west of Madill while in the line of duty.

He was 37.

"Agent Flickinger was a dedicated member of the Lighthorse Police Department for more than three years," Gov. Bill Anoatubby said. "His hard work and integrity reflected well both on the Chickasaw Nation and the community in which he served. He was also known for his compassion and professionalism, and will be sorely missed by all those who knew him."

Special Agent Flickinger began work with the Lighthorse Police in September 2004 as a patrol officer. He was promoted to Special Agent in September 2007 and worked in narcotics enforcement.

"Pat was a visionary, challenge-driven professional and natural leader," Lighthorse Police Chief Jason O'Neal said. "As a graduate of the FBI National Academy, and with 16 years of law enforcement experience he was a remarkable asset to our department.

"Never have I met someone who enjoyed life and took pleasure in being a police officer as much as he."

A member of the Lighthorse Police Dive Team and Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Team, Flickinger was known for his leadership abilities and loyal devotion as an officer.

"Pat excelled at everything with which he was tasked," O'Neal said. "His solid work ethic and remarkable professionalism directly influenced the accomplishments of our department."

A member of the Oklahoma City Police Department Honor Guard presents a flag to a family member of fallen Lighthorse Police officer Robert Patrick Flickinger. Special Agent Flickinger died in a two-vehicle crash while in the line of duty March 7.

Flickinger was a graduate of W.E. Boswell High School in Saginaw, Texas. He was a U.S. Navy veteran and served in the Navy's Construction Battalions (Seabees).

He began his career in law enforcement with the Marshall County (OK) Sheriff's Office where he was eventually pro-

*See **Agent Flickinger,** page 43*

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CHICKASAW TRIBAL LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION
David Stout Building
Ada, Oklahoma
February 15, 2008

AGENDA ITEM #1 CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chairperson Pro Tempore Judy Goforth Parker called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m., in the absence of Chairperson Linda Briggs.

AGENDA ITEM #2 ROLL CALL

Members present: Beth Alexander, Katie Case, Scott Colbert, Tim Colbert, Holly Easterling, Mary Jo Green, Dean McManus, Judy Goforth Parker, Wanda Blackwood Scott, David Woerz, Steve Woods

Members absent: Linda Briggs, Donna Hartman

Staff present: Doretta Sellers, Recording Secretary, Harold Stick, Sergeant-At-Arms, Robert Cheadle, Legislative Counsel

Guests present: Traile G. Glory, Michael L. Wingo, Tom Bolitho, Rita Loder, Traci Gold, Dana Hudspen, J. L. Green

Chairperson Pro Tempore Goforth Parker appointed Ms. Easterling to serve as Secretary Pro Tempore for the session.

AGENDA ITEM #3 INVOCATION

Invocation was given by Ms. Green.

AGENDA ITEM #4 READING OF MINUTES - January 18, 2008

A motion was made by Ms. Green and seconded by Mrs. Alexander to approve the January 18, 2008 Session Minutes.

Members voting yes: Beth Alexander, Katie Case, Scott Colbert, Tim Colbert, Holly Easterling, Mary Jo Green, Dean McManus, Judy Goforth Parker, Wanda Blackwood Scott, David Woerz, Steve Woods

11 yes votes

The motion to approve the minutes of January 18, 2008 Session Minutes carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM #5: UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

AGENDA ITEM #6: REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

(A) LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT by Committee Chair Steve Woods

General Resolution Number 25-025, Designation of Change of Legislative Session Day

This resolution changes the Legislative Session for March, 2008, to Monday, March 24, 2008, at 9:00 AM at Ada, Oklahoma. Such change is necessary due to a conflict with the third Friday in March being Good Friday, a tribal holiday. This resolution was declared an emergency because it was received after the first Friday in February, but it must be considered prior to March, 2008.

A motion was made by Mr. Woods and seconded by Mrs. Alexander to approve GR25-025.

Members voting yes: Beth Alexander, Katie Case, Scott Colbert, Tim Colbert, Holly Easterling, Mary Jo Green, Dean McManus, Judy Goforth Parker, Wanda Blackwood Scott, David Woerz, Steve Woods

11 yes votes

The motion to approve GR25-025 carried unanimously.

Mr. Woods concluded his report.

(B) FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT by Committee Chair Holly Easterling

Ms. Easterling stated that Financial Director, Jenny Trett, reported to the committee this month.

(C) HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE REPORT by Committee Chair Dean McManus

General Resolution Number 25-013, Approval of Application for Funding Family Violence Prevention and Services

This resolution approves the Chickasaw Nation's application for federal funding to the Administration for Children and Families for the continuation of the Family Violence Prevention and Services project. With the funds from the grant, we are able to assist clients with relocating costs associated with leaving an abusive situation. This can include assistance with housing rental costs and deposit plus utility deposits for housing, household items, bedding, beds, dinettes, kitchen items, clothing, and transportation tickets to locate services or employment and groceries. We also provide crises counseling, safety planning and education regarding domestic violence, assistance with protective orders and facilitate a weekly support group, "Spirit Circle." We also make many referrals to tribal and non-tribal agencies to assist with emergency shelter, legal and other needs. This grant serves Native America and non-Native American victims.

A motion was made by Ms. McManus and seconded by Ms. Wanda Blackwood Scott to approve GR25-013.

Members voting yes: Beth Alexander, Katie Case, Scott Colbert, Tim Colbert, Holly Easterling, Mary Jo Green, Dean McManus, Judy Goforth Parker, Wanda Blackwood Scott, David Woerz, Steve Woods

11 yes votes

The motion to approve GR25-013 carried unanimously.

General Resolution Number GR25-014, Tribal Criminal History Record Improvement Program Grant

The fiscal year 2008 cycle of BJS-TCHRIP grants has been released. An proposal amount estimated at $100,000 is available without any matching requirement. The grant would allow for the design and implementation of an integrated data system, including driving under the influence (DUI), sex offender and domestic violence convictions, as well as protective orders, to be centralized and shared with law enforcement personnel. Law enforcement officers would have greater access to and awareness of criminal history information on suspects during the course of their duties.

A motion was made by Ms. McManus and seconded by Ms. Green to approve GR25-014.

Members voting yes: Beth Alexander, Katie Case, Scott Colbert, Tim Colbert, Holly Easterling, Mary Jo Green, Dean McManus, Judy Goforth Parker, Wanda Blackwood Scott, David Woerz, Steve Woods

11 yes votes

The motion to approve GR25-014 carried unanimously.

General Resolution Number GR25-015, Application for Indian Alcohol and Substance Abuse Grant

The fiscal year 2008 cycle of BJA-IASA grants has been released. An award in the amount of $300,000 is available without any matching requirement. The grant would continue the existing program operated cooperatively between the Lighthorse Police Department and Behavioral Services Department.

A motion was made by Mr. Woerz and seconded by Ms. Case to approve GR25-015.

Members voting yes: Beth Alexander, Katie Case, Scott Colbert, Tim Colbert, Holly Easterling, Mary Jo Green, Dean McManus, Judy Goforth Parker, Wanda Blackwood Scott, David Woerz, Steve Woods

11 yes votes

The motion to approve GR25-015 carried unanimously.

General Resolution 25-019, Gubernatorial Appointment – Chickasaw Nation Election Commission, Mr. Jerry D. Malaney

This resolution approves Governor Bill Anoatubby's reappointment of Mr. Jerry D. Malaney to the Chickasaw Nation Election Commission.

A motion was made by Mr. Woerz and seconded by Ms. Easterling to approve GR25-019.

Members voting yes: Beth Alexander, Katie Case, Scott Colbert, Tim Colbert, Holly Easterling, Mary Jo Green, Dean McManus, Judy Goforth Parker, Wanda Blackwood Scott, David Woerz, Steve Woods

11 yes votes

*See **Minutes,** page 44*

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Lt. Governor

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All editorials and letters will become the property of the *Chickasaw Times*. Editorials must be signed by the author and include the author's address.

Deadline for submission is the 22nd of each month prior to publication. Submissions can be mailed, faxed, hand-delivered or e-mailed.

Our common goal of exceptional health care

By BILL ANOATUBBY
Governor
Chickasaw Nation

It has been written that if you have have good health, you possess the greatest blessing God can bestow.

When we experience ill health, we want to quickly get back to our "old selves." We want to go on living, working, loving our families and enjoying full lives.

When we determined it was time to begin the planning for our new Chickasaw Nation health care facility in Ada, it quickly became apparent we were on the right track. Quality health care is a top priority for all Chickasaw people, and we saw that we could take major steps forward . Our challenge as your tribal government was how to provide the very best Indian health care in the country while wrestling with the sometimes stark realities of our American system of health care.

Operating a health care system is a daunting task. Good health care requires expensive technology, efficient systems and, above all, highly trained and committed health care professionals. We are fortunate our Chickasaw Nation Health System benefits from each of these vital components. Since the Chickasaw Nation, in 1994, assumed authority for Indian health care in the service unit surrounding Ada, we have seen health care improve for Chickasaw and other Indian people.

Of course, the health care CNHS provides comes with a big price tag. The rising cost of health care in our country is relentless and has a number of causes.

Medical advances are coming on-line at an ever-faster pace. Medical professionals – physicians, nurses, technicians, administrators – are expected to keep up with continuing education and advanced training. Supplies, services and general expenses rise annually at many times the rate of inflation.

There is also the additional

Gov. BILL ANOATUBBY

squeeze of third-party reimbursements. As health care costs escalate, insurance companies and government insurers like Medicare and Medicaid are working hard to rein in their reimbursements to health care providers.

Despite all the challenges, we have long realized that providing top quality health care to Chickasaws is something to which we will always be fully committed.

We have committed to building the new, state-of-the-art health care facility in Ada. This 370,000 square-foot center will be one of the very finest health care facilities in the country. As such, it will be expensive. We project the total cost of the facility to be about $150 million.

While our tribe has obviously prospered through its own commercial endeavors, it is our job to continue to seek additional funding for the essential programs and services on which Chickasaws depend. You probably know that CNHS administers approximately $50 million annually in IHS funding for health care services, and the Chickasaw Nation contributes another approximately $10 million annually principally for Chickasaw-specific health programs.

These are sizable expenditures but, as we have discovered, providing quality health care to a large population is a seriously expensive procedure.

It is a tremendous plus that our team of tribal health care planners has succeeded in securing a very significant funding mechanism called the Joint Venture Construction Program Award. This award will provide millions of dollars in additional federal staffing and operational funding to CNHS for decades to come. The program represents a cooperative effort between the Chickasaw Nation and the IHS, with IHS delivering the enhanced funding as support for the tribe's commitment to the new Chickasaw Nation health care facility.

The key to successful Indian health care is two-fold: the care provided our patients must be of the highest quality, and, pragmatic and successful searches for additional funding much occur in order to meet the rising costs of excellent health care.

Our new health care facility is scheduled for opening in 2010, and our contractor is right on schedule. Our vision for our health care future means Chickasaws enjoying good health, productive lives and years of family happiness.

McCaleb inducted into Tulsa Library Circle of Honor

Neal McCaleb, left, and Lieutenant Governor Jefferson Keel following Mr. McCaleb's induction into the Tulsa City-County Library Circle of Honor.

Neal McCaleb, a Chickasaw citizen and longtime state leader, was recently inducted into the Circle of Honor by the Tulsa City-County Library.

The Circle of Honor ceremony honors an American Indian for his or her achievements by acknowledging the inductee's contributions that have enriched others' lives and by celebrating the inductee's action in the face of adversity, commitment to the preservation of American Indian culture and legacy for future generations.

The ceremony took place March 1.

Oklahoma State Rep. Lisa Johnson-Billy, a Chickasaw citizen and former tribal legislator, introduced Mr. McCaleb. She said she met Mr. McCaleb 18 years earlier.

"Neal motivated me to do better with my life," said Rep. Billy. "He helped me to have a bigger vision."

Mr. McCaleb said "my heart is full" as he accepted the award. He gave much of the credit for his success to Georgann, his wife of 52 years.

The award included a medallion, a Pendleton blanket and a $5,000 cash prize.

Mr. McCaleb said he would donate the $5,000 to the Nature Conservancy, where he is a board member.

Mr. McCaleb is a former Assistant U.S. Secretary of Interior for Indian Affairs. He previously served Oklahoma as state Transportation Secretary and director of the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority. He helped develop plans for the Kilpatrick Turnpike in Oklahoma City and the Creek Turnpike in Tulsa.

Mr. McCaleb also served as an elected official in the state House of Representatives, where he served four years as the Republican floor leader.

Since leaving the Department of Interior, Mr. McCaleb has worked to assist the Chickasaw Nation with long-term economic development strategies. He currently serves on the board of Bank 2, the Chickasaw Nation-owned bank, and also serves as chairman of the board of directors of Chickasaw Nation Industries, Inc. (CNI).

The Circle of Honor award alternates annually with the American Indian Festival of Words Author Award, which recognizes nationally acclaimed American Indian authors. The late Charles Chibitty and Wilma Mankiller were the first two individuals to receive the Circle of Honor award.

Contributed by Tony Choate, tribal media relations.

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Expanded services on the way for at-large citizenry

Linda Briggs
Chickasaw Tribal Legislature

Hello Everyone!

Spring is definitely here in Southern Oklahoma! One day we have a temperature in the 20s and before that day is over it may reach close to 80 degrees! Sweaters and jackets are a wonderful invention about this time. Our firefighters were already fighting grass fires all night when we were fortunate to receive a lot of rain (some places got 6 and 7 inches in just a few hours). Then of course we were dealing with flooding in some areas.

Our friends in the Western tribes have already sent firefighters in to help us and it is so very, very much appreciated. They come in and then go back home on a rotating basis. Their friendship extended to us in this gesture is an awesome gift. (The strong winds that come this time of year take care of any flooding problems rather rapidly).

A number of gatherings and listening conferences are ongoing and those are being very well attended. If one occurs in your area you would find it very much worth your effort to attend. We try to have legislators at all the meetings and for that matter, at all of the community council meetings. Sometimes the dates conflict with our sessions and it is not possible for us to have someone there but for the most part we do and we always look forward to meeting and visiting with you.

Many services are offered to our citizens and more and more are becoming available to our "at-large" citizens (who live outside the boundaries of the Nation). Recently at one of the meetings I was telling someone that soon we will be providing prescription medication availability to our citizens outside the Nation and the person said "I already have that service!" She went on to explain that because the Tribe pays for her Medicare-Part D, she has prescription service provided. Soon, though, it will be available to all ages of our citizens. It is an ongoing effort to constantly improve existing services as we add new services. We are so, so fortunate to be Chickasaw!

The great statesman Hubert Humphrey once said, "The moral test of a society is how it treats those who are in the dawn of life – the children; those who are in the twilight of life – the elderly; and those who are in the shadow of life – the sick, the needy, and the handicapped." I believe our great Chickasaw Nation would pass the test!

Great blessings to all of you!

Linda Briggs

Important to seek permanent funding for Special Diabetes Program for Indians

Dr. Judy Goforth Parker
Chickasaw Tribal Legislature

Tribal Leaders Diabetes Committee (TLDC) Consultation Process Update.

On December 17, 2007, Congress approved Senate Bill 2499 which extended the Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI) for one more year, through September 30, 2009 at a funding rate of $150 million. A number of groups, including the TLDC, American Diabetes Association, National Indian Health Board, Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation and others have worked to have the funding extended until 2014. We have not succeeded yet, but the work continues. The TLDC met in February, 2007 to discuss and make recommendations to the Indian Health Service acting director for the SDPI funding for FY 2008.

TLDC recommended that Area Tribal Consultation be held in order to inform Tribal Leaders and communities at the local level of the important new developments. The Oklahoma area met at the beginning of March to discuss the funding and come up with a strategy for our vote. Following the consultation and feedback guide developed by IHS, the Oklahoma area agreed by consensus to keep the distribution of the new SDPI funding the same through 2009

As I have said in the past, there are groups who continue to work to extend and possibly increase the SDPI funds as a multi-year package. It is not too early to begin to think about what you can do to help extend this funding. I will keep you updated on my blog at www.goforthparker.com <http://www.goforthparker.com> as well as through publications through *the Chickasaw Times*.

What we have accomplished in Indian country related to the advancement of care for those with diabetes is being looked at by the health care community at large. We are on the cutting edge. What we are doing for the prevention of diabetes is also setting a precedent for others to follow and pattern. Please do your part to make sure that this funding is continued. You are either impacted directly or indirectly, positively or negatively if this funding should cease

TLDC will hold a conference call March 28 to vote our voice concerning the funding for 2009. Oklahoma will vote to have the funding remain as is. There are other important issues that will be discussed. We will also meet in May to continue to strategize about the extension of the program with congressional support. I will keep you informed.

As always, I enjoy serving you as Tribal Legislator, Pontotoc District, Seat 2

Judy Goforth Parker, PhD, RN

Committee Reports

Committee of the Whole Meeting

March 17, 2008

Present: Beth Alexander, Katie Case, Scott Colbert, Tim Colbert, Holy Easterling, Donna Hartman, Dean McManus, Wanda Blackwood Scott, David Woerz, Linda Briggs

Absent: Mary Jo Green, Judy Goforth Parker, Steve Woods

Education Committee

March 10, 2008

Present: Wanda Blackwood Scott, Beth Alexander, Katie Case, Holly Easterling, Linda Briggs

Absent: Mary Jo Green, Donna Hartman

Finance Committee

March 17, 2008

Present: Holly Easterling, Dean McManus, Wanda Blackwood Scott, David Woerz, Linda Briggs

Absent: Judy Goforth Parker, Steve Woods

Health Care Committee

March 10, 2008

Present: Beth Alexander, Dean McManus, Linda Briggs

Absent: Mary Jo Green, Scott Colbert, Judy Goforth Parker, Donna Hartman

Human Resources Committee

March 10, 2008

Present: Katie Case, Dean McManus, Wanda Blackwood Scott, David Woerz, Linda Briggs

Absent: Mary Jo Green, Donna Hartman

Land Development Committee

March 10, 2008

Present: Beth Alexander, David Woerz, Holly Easterling, Linda Briggs

Absent: Judy Goforth Parker, Mary Jo Green, Steve Woods

Legislative Committee

March 10, 2008

Present: Beth Alexander, Linda Briggs, Katie Case, Holly Easterling, Dean McManus, Wanda Blackwood Scott, David Woerz, Scott Colbert

Absent: Tim Colbert, Mary Jo Green, Donna Hartman, Judy Goforth Parker, Steve Woods

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Chickasaw Citizens

Urgent care, automated prescription refill set to ramp up

Mary Jo Green
Chickasaw Tribal Legislature

Hello and greetings from Legislator Mary Jo Green, Seat 5, Pontotoc District and Committee Chair of the Health Care Committee! We just received 2 months' worth of rain overnight in Ada. It's very soggy out, but we hope to avoid a drought this year. I'm recovering from a hip replacement but plan to be up and around shortly. I am still on duty, however. Thank you so much for your thoughts and prayers!

Health System Administrator Bill Lance met with the Health Care Committee on March 10 and reported that the automatic prescription refill system will issue a formal announcement and be up and running in April. It will work like the Veterans' Administration system - you can call an automated number and give a prescription number for automatic refill. We believe this system will speed up the process. The mail order prescription refill system for seniors and children will be utilizing polystyrene shipping containers to protect the medications during delivery.

The Health System is advertising to hire Physician's Assistants or Nurse Practitioners for the Health Clinics in Ardmore, Purcell and Tishomingo/Duncan by the end of this month (March). The PA/NP will assist in Urgent Care so more patients can be seen more quickly. It is anticipated that the Clinics in Tishomingo and Duncan can share a PA/NP. If the patient traffic proves them wrong, the number of PA/NP can be increased in the future.

The position of Elder Care Manager is currently being advertised by the Health System. The position was created by request of the Legislature to increase health care services to senior citizens. Thank you Bill!

Construction is moving along on the new hospital in Ada. As of March 10, approximately 140 piers out of a required 420 piers had been constructed.

Administrator Bill Lance has submitted the following statistics: for the month of February, 2008, there were 235 hospitalizations at Carl Albert Indian Health Facility. The number of outpatient visits at Carl Albert was 16,419. February Emergency Room visits were 1,028. February saw 253 surgeries and the Same-day Clinic saw 3,299 patients.

The Family Practice Clinic in Ada saw 3,201 patients in February. The Ardmore Clinic saw 2,896 patients and the Tishomingo Clinic saw 2,069. The Durant Clinic saw 2,431 patients and the Purcell Clinic saw 1,612 in February.

I would love to hear from you! Please contact me through my email address mary.green@chickasaw.net or through the address and telephone number listed elsewhere in this and every issue of *the Chickasaw Times* and on the Chickasaw Nation web site. My articles are also located on the web site. Until next month, thank you.

Stretch your dollars - utilize the prescription program

Katie Case
Chickasaw Tribal Legislature

Hello Everyone,

These are anxious times. Daily, the national news is dominated by the housing crisis and subsequent credit crunch that is creating a more and more beleaguered economy. The beleaguered economy is, in turn, leading to a dollar that is ever decreasing in value.

To you and me, this means we take a weaker dollar to the gas pump and the grocery store where we see prices ever-increasing at an alarming rate. Higher prices affect us all, especially those individuals on fixed incomes.

One way to meet today's financial challenges is to take full advantage of Chickasaw programs, thus leaving you more dollars to meet today's higher prices. One potentially beneficial and extremely impactful program is the Prescription Mail Order Program.

By utilizing the mail service to provide medications anywhere a Chickasaw lives, the Prescription Mail Order Program can potentially save Chickasaws significant portions of their monthly incomes. In some cases, decisions have to be made to forgo needed medications in order to be able to afford food, housing, transportation and other necessary expenses.

The dollars saved by having some or all of needed daily medications delivered to the door could directly impact the quality of life for some and could actually be the difference in surviving and not surviving for some Chickasaws.

Chickasaw citizens who are: less than 19 years old, age 65 or older on Medicare Part D, or Medicare disabled on Medicare Part D, or any age with private insurance drug coverage are eligible and may enroll. To enroll, call (580) 559-0794. For those calling long distance, call toll-free 1-888-512-5522 extension 81518.

Sandi Sanders is the director of this and other programs. For those of you who don't know Sandi, you are missing out. Sandi is as dedicated to serving the healthcare needs of Chickasaws as she is a blessing of a person! Sandi's email address is sandi.sanders@chickasaw.net and her phone number is (580) 421-4543.

Respectfully,
Katie Case

Our children's educations are a top Chickasaw priority

Wanda Blackwood
Tippit Scott
Chickasaw Tribal Legislature

It is truly amazing all the great education programs we now offer for our Chickasaw children!

We are now helping our children understand their Chickasaw culture through several special programs. The newest is the Chepota Chikasha Anumpoli (Children Speaking Chickasaw) monthly meeting during which the kids learn Chickasaw words. The meetings are built around special themes that help get them thinking about the words and what they mean. This program is open to children up to the age of nine. What a great way to get started speaking Chickasaw!

Another excellent cultural tool are Chickasaw flash cards. These teaching tools help the kids associate and remember the words as they are "flashed" before them. These small minds are anything but limited! You would be surprised at how quickly our children pick up the words and their meanings.

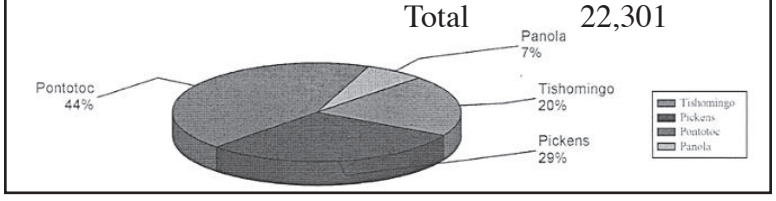
The Chickasaw Reading Program is a tremendous way to get our youngest children in the reading habit. This program provides books for young children up to age five. Students may receive one book per month up to age five. This is so much better than the tv.

Of course, there is our Early Childhood Development/Head Start program. For our children ages three to five, our Chickasaw Nation Head Start does just that - provides that essential "head start" as children begin their academic experiences. There is nothing more important than success in elementary and secondary school. With Head Start, we are providing children with that special boost they need to really reach the heights!

There is much more because the Chickasaw Nation has traditionally placed education as one of its highest priorities. We want our children to succeed and live happy and full lives. We're investing in our most precious asset - our children.

Count of Voters by District

Tishomingo	4,549	Pontotoc	9,736
Pickens	6,533	Panola	1,483
		Total	22,301



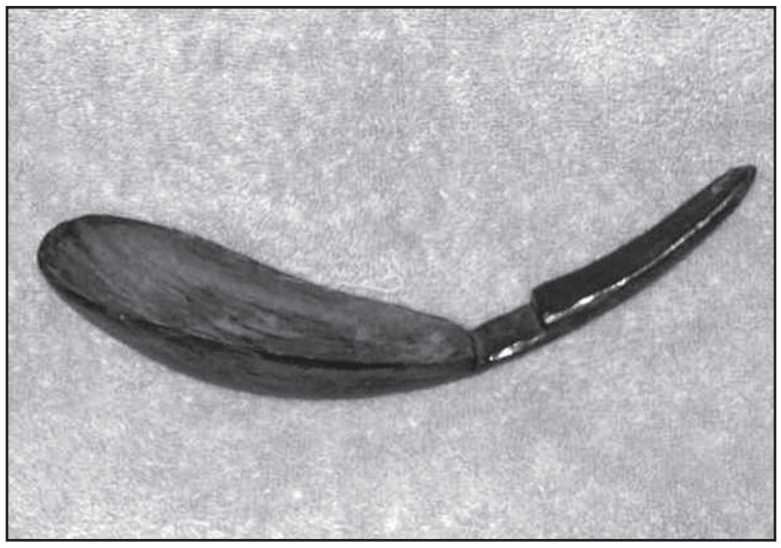
Love Cemetery offers insight into Chickasaw histories

Beth Alexander
Chickasaw Tribal Legislature

Last month's article must have struck a chord with many of you. I have had several comments. It is a nice surprise to find out there are more family relations.

I mentioned last month that when the weather improved that Mr. Chance Wimberley and I would continue our sightseeing trips around the Panola District. Recently, we got to do just that. John and Cathy Osborn, and Cathy's sister, Janet Clark, joined us. Cathy and Janet are of the Levi Colbert lineage. We were able to tour the Love Cemetery located east of Colbert, Oklahoma. This particular plot of land used to be part of the original allotment of Mr. Wimberley's great-grandmother. We were excited to locate the headstone of Rhoda Gunn Potts, our GGG grandmother. The inscription was in good shape due to the fact that the marker has spent many years face down in the dirt.

Cathy and Janet were able to locate the headstone of their great-grandfather James Allen Colbert. Their father was also named James Allen Colbert. He was born, raised and buried on the family's original allotment which included the grounds of Fort Washita. James was four years old when their original home burned. The family then resided in what is currently the museum and office of Ft. Washita. Interesting isn't it? Cathy also shared with me a family heirloom, a Buffalo horn spoon, which was said to have had many a meal of pashofa eaten with it. The spoon has been passed directly down to the next generation from James Allen Colbert (1832-1874) to son, Charley Colbert (1863-1954) to this son, James Allen Colbert (1913-2003) then to Cathryn Colbert Osborn.



Buffalo horn spoon

After viewing the cemetery, we then proceeded to the location of the Colbert Ferry. After a mild search we did find the remains of ironworks and the path of the ferry. It was a successful trip. To learn more about the Colbert Family history and connect with relatives, log on to the website at colbertfamilyhistory.blogspot.com or email Mr. Chance Wimberley at colbertfamilyhistory@gmail.com

Last month, I and two other legislators, attended a Chickasaw Gathering held in Wichita, Kansas. We were able to meet and visit with several citizens that reside in that area of the country. If you were the interesting lady who graduated high school from Mill Creek, Oklahoma, would you please contact me? I am sorry to say that I did not get your contact information and would like to hear from you.

The next location for a tribal meeting is Waco, Texas early in April, then on to Bakersfield, California for a May 17th date. There will also be a Chickasaw West Picnic on May 31st, in Santee, California. Going to this event each year is like attending a family reunion. I can't wait to catch up on the news.

I look forward to meeting you at one of the Chickasaw Gatherings or Community Councils. Get involved and play a part in the history of our tribe.

To contact me:
Beth Alexander
Panola District Legislator
P.O. Box 246
Achille, OK 74720
(580) 283-3409
Email: bethalexander22@hotmail.com

February 2008 Resolutions

CHICKASAW TRIBAL LEGISLATURE

General Resolution Number GR25-027

Gubernatorial Appointment to the Board of Directors of the Chickasaw Nation Industries, Inc.

Mr. Homer Paul

Explanation: This resolution approves Governor Bill Anoatubby's appointment of Mr. Homer Paul to the Board of Directors of Chickasaw Nation Industries, Inc.

Article IV of the Articles of Incorporation issued by the Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior provides that the terms of office of each board member shall be three years. Mr. Homer Paul will fill a three-year term of office ending on February 28, 2011. A resume of Mr. Homer Paul is attached.

Presented By: Human Resources Committee

Dean McManus, Committee Chair

Yes votes: Beth Alexander, Katie Case, Scott Colbert, Holly Easterling, Donna Hartman, Dean McManus, Judy Goforth Parker, David Woerz, Steve Woods, Linda Briggs

General Resolution Number 25-029

Commendation and Tribute to Chickasaw Special Agent Robert Patrick (Pat) Flickinger

Explanation: This resolution is a Commendation and Tribute to Lighthorse Police Special Agent Robert Patrick (Pat) Flickinger. The Special Agent was born August 11, 1970, and on March 7, 2008, was mortally injured during a vehicular accident.

Agent Flickinger was hired as a uniformed police officer with the Chickasaw Nation's Lighthorse Police Department on September 27, 2004. He was promoted to a Special Agent on October 15, 2007, and was assigned to work narcotics enforcement.

Agent Flickinger had a total of 16 years of law enforcement experience, was a veteran of the US Navy and graduate of the FBI National Academy. Agent Flickinger was a member of both the Lighthorse Police Scuba-Dive Team and Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Team.

Agent Flickinger considered it an honor to serve his community and was well respected within the law enforcement community. Agent Flickinger listed on his resume that his personal goal was to maintain integrity in order to be a positive role model to his daughter and community.

Emergency Legislation: This resolution is emergency legislation because of the date of the untimely death of Special Agent Flickinger.

Presented By: Legislative Committee

Steve Woods, Committee Chair

Yes votes: Beth Alexander, Katie Case, Scott Colbert, Holly Easterling, Donna Hartman, Dean McManus, Judy Goforth Parker, David Woerz, Steve Woods, Linda Briggs

Scott Colbert hosts open house monthly at Tishomingo Clinic

D. Scott Colbert
Chickasaw Tribal Legislature

Chickasaw Tribal Legislature chairman and Tishomingo District legislator Scott Colbert hosts an open office for legislative business at the Tishomingo Clinic between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. the first Wednesday of every month.

Please make appointments at (580) 622-3218. You may also call on the first Wednesday of every month at (580) 421-3425.

Feel free to contact Colbert if you have any questions.

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FISH	OKRA
FRIED SHRIMP	RED BEANS
BOILED SHRIMP	COLE SLAW
BRISKET	FRIED POTATOES
HUSH PUPPIES	PEACH COBBLER
POTATO SALAD	ICE CREAM

PRICES

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SENIORS OVER 55	$10.00
CHILD 6-12	$ 6.00
CHILD UNDER 6	FREE

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Court services in Purcell area; Ardmore added soon

Chief Justice Cheri Bellefeuille Gordon with Youth Council officers Jerica Foster-Marsh and Micki Foster-March.

By CHERI BELLEFEUILLE GORDON
Chickasaw Supreme Court Chief Justice

Chukma! On behalf of Justice Smith, Justice Colbert and I, we hope this judicial update finds you well and in good spirits. Springtime is upon us signifying growth and newness and our expanding Judicial Branch is in harmony with the season.

Chickasaw Nation District Court/Court Advocates

We want to remind everyone of our expansion of court services for the Purcell area. Each Wednesday, Court Advocate David Ponder is at the Purcell Regional Office to assist our citizens. Court advocates are provided by the Judicial Branch to assist citizens with preparation of papers, provide information on presenting evidence to state your case before the Court and assist with preparing orders or final decrees to finalize the matter. To schedule an appointment with David, please call the District Court at (480) 235-0279 or (800) 479-1459.

In addition to expanding these services to Purcell, we will soon offer court advocate services to those residing in the Ardmore area. Candidates are being reviewed and we look forward to the coming announcement when these services are implemented.

During March, the District Court filed 15 new cases bringing the total to 160 for FY2008, October 2007 through September 2008. Total cases heard in March are 48 which bring the total for the FY2008 period to 332. Also during March, our court advocates saw 48 clients bringing the yearly total to 454.

Chickasaw Nation Supreme Court

On January 28, 2008, I attended the inauguration of the newly-elected Executive Youth Council. I had the distinct honor of swearing in the new members to their respective positions so we'd like to recognize Jerica Foster-Marsh and Micki Foster-March. Congratulations on your election! We know you will do a fantastic job! I also attended the Chickasaw Nation Head Start Easter Egg Hunt and fed the children hot dogs, chips, cookies and a drink on the 14th day of February.

Justice Smith recently taught the seminar "Essential Skills for Tribal Court Judges" at the National Judicial College (NJC) in Reno, Nevada. Justice Smith lectured on "Judge's Roles and Ethics" and "Improving Tribal Court Perception." Also attending was Oklahoma Supreme Court Justice John F. Reif. Tribal judges representing the Comanche, Lakota, Oneida, several Alaskan tribes and one tribe from Marshall Island (200 miles southwest of Hawaii) were also in attendance. During this seminar, the National Judicial College honored Justice Smith with a plaque for her continued support and service.

On March 14, 2008, the National Peacemaking Gathering Committee held a meeting in Boulder, Colorado. Justice Smith, as a member of the committee, attended to plan the upcoming Peacemaking Gathering for 2008. Also attending the meeting were the Native American Rights Fund (NARF), National Judicial College, National Tribal Justice Resource Center and officials from the Mississippi Choctaw, Rosebud Sioux, Mohawk and Stockbridge Munsee Band of Mohicans. These plans will be finalized soon and an announcement will be forthcoming.

Good News!

My husband, Dan, and I would like to announce that we are expecting our second child in July. We are having a baby girl and our son, Noah, is very excited about being a big brother.

We have received wonderful care from the OBGYN department at the Chickasaw Nation Health System, Dr. Richard McClain and staff. We appreciate all the support during our pregnancy.

Chickasaw Bar Association

The Chickasaw Bar Association will be hosting its annual conference on April 4, 2008 at the Winstar Golf Course in Thackerville. Our Bar members, attorneys and gaming personnel are invited to be our guests for the day. The Winstar staff were wonderful hosts last year so we're anticipating a great event. To date, the Chickasaw Bar Association has 183 members.

For more information concerning the upcoming conference or to join the Chickasaw Bar Association, please call Jason Burwell at (580) 235-0281 or (800) 479-1455.

2007-2008 Tribal Legislature

Following is a list of the Chickasaw Nation Tribal Legislators including their address and phone numbers. If you have any questions or need any information, please contact the legislator in your area.

Pontotoc District
Seat #

1. Holly Easterling
   105 Thompson Drive
   Ada, OK 74820
   (580) 399-4002
   holly.easterling@chickasaw.net
2. Judy Parker
   P.O. Box 2628
   Ada, OK 74820
   (580) 332-3840
3. Katie Case
   14368 County Road 3597
   Ada, OK 74820
   (580) 421-9390
4. Dean McManus
   5980 CR 3430
   Ada, OK 74820
   (580) 759-3407
5. Mary Jo Green
   2000 E. 14th Place
   Ada, OK 74820
   (580) 332-2394

Pickens District
Seat #

1. David Woerz
   P.O. Box 669
   Ardmore, OK 73402
   (580) 504-0160
2. Donna Hartman
   HC 66, Box 122
   Overbrook, OK 73448
   (580) 226-4385
3. Linda Briggs
   400 NW 4th
   Marietta, OK 73448
   (580) 276-3493
4. Wanda Blackwood Scott
   Route 1, Box 42
   Elmore City, OK 73433
   (580) 788-4730
   scottdes@telepath.com

Tishomingo District
Seat #

1. D. Scott Colbert
   P.O. Box 773
   Sulphur, OK 73086
   (580) 622-3960
2. Tim Colbert
   P.O. Box 773
   Sulphur, OK 73086
   (580) 993-2818
3. Steven Woods
   Route 1, Box 430A
   Sulphur, OK 73086
   (580) 622-3523

Panola District
Seat #

1. Beth Alexander
   Box 246
   Achille, OK 74720
   (580) 283-3409
   bethalexander22@hotmail.com

Historic Site Manager

The Chickasaw Nation is looking for an individual to manage the operation of Chisha' tall' a, a 17th and 18th century Chickasaw village site. This unique opportunity will require initial development in Ada, Ok and later permanently relocate to Tupelo, Mississippi. Bachelor's degree (Master's preferred), with an area of concentration in museum education, history, communications, or related field. Responsibilities will include helping plan new construction for a visitor's center, coordinating development of self-directed tour, conducting tours and developing site exhibits, as well as overseeing site budget including staff. Knowledge of Chickasaw language, culture, and history w/ three yr. exp in a museum, historic building or historic site helpful. To complete an application, please refer: http://www.chickasaw.net <http://www.chickasaw.net/> if you would like additional information, you may contact 580-436-7259. American Indian Preference

PARADIGM REALTY
Amellia "Amie" Ellis
Office: 580-436-5588
Cell: 580-272-6863
Home: 580-436-2331
Fax: 580-436-2290
Toll Free: 1-866-755-5588
MLS

Gilliam committed to serving citizen transportation needs

ANGIE GILLIAM

Angie Gilliam has served as the director of Chickasaw Nation Transportation Services for a few months, diligently working on implementing a new program, "Road To Work" (see related story at right).

She has worked in the position since December 2006, and has found the job as director both rewarding and fulfilling.

She stepped into the role after serving as executive assistant for Program Operations division administrator Pat Woods for six years. As Woods' assistant, Gilliam familiarized herself with every aspect of the division, from employees to required reports. The Division of Program Operations is the largest tribal division.

The tribe's Transportation Department provides non-emergency medical transportation to all Native Americans at no charge.

"Angie is very knowledgeable of the many programs offered by the Chickasaw Nation and makes sure her employees are aware to be helpful to our clients," said Programs Operation Division Administrator Pat Woods.

This knowledge lent itself well when the director's position became vacant. She was initially named acting director, and was later formally appointed.

"It is an honor and a privilege to be director of this department. We have a wonderful staff who go above and beyond the call of duty to help citizens, especially our elders."

Gilliam has over nine years experience with the Chickasaw Nation. She has also worked in Human Resources, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

She holds a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Southeastern Oklahoma State University, Durant.

Over the years, Gilliam has served on several Native American training and education-related boards and committees, including the National Indian and Native American Employment and Training Conference Executive Committee, where she served for three years.

She was also recently appointed to the Governor's "United We Ride" advisory council, a statewide organization.

"Angie is an exceptional employee due to her commitment and caring attitude towards our Indian people. She is a leader by example and is definitely an asset to our division and the Chickasaw Nation," Woods said.

During her time off work, Gilliam, along with her husband Jeff, stay busy cheering on their children at athletic events. Both daughter Karnie, 16, and son Rance, 15, play sports for Coalgate High School.

The family is also huge fans of University of Oklahoma football.

For more information on Transportation Services, call the Ada office at 1-800-492-2115 or the Ardmore office at 1-866-909-3107.

Contributed by Dana Hudspeth, tribal media relations.

'Go Fly a Kite' at the White House

The Chickasaw Nation will host an old-fashioned kite-flying event this month on the grounds of the historic Chickasaw White House. All kids are welcome!

The family-oriented event will take place April 4 and 5 and April 11 and 12 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Chickasaw White House is located at Emet, Okla.

During the early 1900s when Chickasaw Governor Douglas H. Johnston lived in the White House, kite flying was a favorite pastime. The Johnston family spent many hours creating and flying kites on the White House lawn.

This old-fashioned event is free and open to the public. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

"Bring your own kite and join in the fun, or use one of the kites provided by the staff," Regina Berna, tribal museums and historic sites director, said.

The newly-restored historic home will be open for tours, upon request.

Directions to the Chickasaw White House:

From downtown Tishomingo go east on State Highway 78 through Milburn. Continue on Highway 78 for approximately three miles past Milburn. Watch for cemetery sign on east (left) side of highway, turn west (right) at the cemetery sign and go approximately one-half mile. The White House sets on the north (right) side of the road.

Contributed by Dana Hudspeth, tribal media relations.

Walker named 'Citizen of the Year'

Allen, Okla., citizen Virgil Walker, son of Chickasaw elder Pauline Walker, accepts his award as "Allen Citizen of the Year."

Chickasaw citizen Virgil Walker was named 2007 Allen (OK) "Citizen of the Year" during the Allen Annual Chamber Banquet on February 26.

"I was so shocked," Mr. Walker said of the honor, "but I was very grateful."

A life-long resident of Allen, Mr. Walker served on the volunteer fire department for 20 years, the final six years as fire chief. He retired in December.

The Citizen of the Year Award is the highest award the Chamber bestows during the year. It is presented to a resident who goes above and beyond the norm to benefit the city of Allen. The officers of the Chamber of Commerce determine the recipient by looking at time and service given to the community.

"Virgil is very quiet and reserved, doesn't in any way seek attention," said Cindy Davis, secretary of the Allen Chamber. "But he's always there and willing to serve when you need him."

Mr. Walker is now employed by the Allen Camper Company, where he is a shop manager.

He and is wife, Ramona, have two daughters and six grandchildren. He is the son of Chickasaw elder Pauline Walker.

Contributed by Carrie Bradshaw, tribal media relations.

'Road to Work' to offer Ada/Goldsby shuttle

RICK MILLER

An exciting new program, offered by the Chickasaw Nation Transportation Department, is scheduled to be launched early next month.

The Road to Work Program will provide a transportation route between Ada and Goldsby, Okla., and will strive to fill the void in public transportation.

"Public transportation is much-needed in our rural areas, and this is one way to meet the ever-growing need," said Angie Gilliam, tribal transportation services director.

"It is going to help people get to work."

Two buses will be used in the program, one leaving Ada and one leaving from Goldsby each morning. This will give clients more options on times to catch the bus, and should cater to those who have non-traditional working hours.

A total of three routes per day are planned.

"The lack of transportation has always been a barrier to employment, this will alleviate that issue, the busses will make a stop where riders' work," Gilliam explained.

The route was targeted due to the number of employers in the area, including, but not limited to, Bedre and the Wal-Mart Distribution Center in Pauls Valley and Riverwind Casino in Goldsby.

There will be a nominal fee to ride the shuttle bus, and it will be open to the general public.

"We are excited about this program, we have been working on it for over a year. This has never been done in the Tribe, we are looking forward to getting started and helping people get to work," Gilliam explained.

Rick Miller, Road to Work program manager, is currently finalizing routes, hiring bus drivers and taking care of other details so the program will be ready to launch early next month.

Miller, of Ada, will oversee all aspects of the program. He has worked for the Chickasaw Nation for nine years.

His job duties officially doubled after transportation officials received word last month of additional federal funding. Plans are in the works to develop a route between Ada and Thackerville with the additional funding.

For more information about the Road to Work program, call 1-800-429-2115.

Contributed by Dana Hudspeth, tribal media relations.

Unique works of Chickasaw composer released in March

JEROD TATE

Hundreds attended a March 13 event celebrating the release of a new recording of works by **Chickasaw composer** Jerod Impichchaachaaha' Tate.

Mr. Tate gave his family credit for his success.

"I believe that the music that I express is in totality an expression of my family," he said. He recognized each member of his family in attendance at the event and expressed special appreciation to his wife, Ursula Running Bear.

The recording includes two compositions based on Chickasaw language and culture performed by the San Francisco Symphony and San Francisco Symphony Chorus**.**

This marks the first time a major American Symphony Orchestra and an American Indian composer have collaborated to record and release orchestral works.

John Kieser, manager of the San Francisco Symphony, attended the event.

"We're very honored to be part of this project," said Mr. Kieser. "The Symphony and the Symphony chorus really believe these are important works that need to be heard, and I hope that as many people as possible in this country and around the world hear this music."

Thunderbird Records, a new music label devoted entirely to American Indian classical music, released the recording.

Founder and producer of Thunderbird Records, Alan Bise, said he decided to create the new music label after hearing a performance of one of Mr. Tate's works in 2004.

When Mr. Tate learned the Chickasaw Nation would support the project as part of wider efforts to revitalize and preserve Chickasaw language and culture, he called the San Francisco Symphony.

Mr. Kieser said the Symphony received literally thousands of calls each year asking it to participate in musical projects.

"I received a phone call from him, and he didn't have to tell me he was serious, because I could tell," he said. "Jerod has a fantastic way of communicating. The sincerity and integrity in his voice just comes right through those phone lines."

He said several people must listen to any music before the symphony will consent to participate in a project.

"As each person heard the music, everybody said 'my goodness, this is so compelling. This reaches right inside of you.'"

Iholba' is performed in the Chickasaw language, and is based on a traditional Chickasaw "Garfish Dance Song."

Governor Bill Anoatubby said Mr. Tate was an inspiration to Chickasaw young people.

"You are a real mentor to our young people," he said. "You are helping to bring out their talents in a way which may well help them follow in your footsteps."

CDs of the musical collaboration between Mr. Tate and the Symphony are available through the Chickasaw Outpost, 212 S. Broadway, Ada, OK 74821. The phone number is (580) 332-1458.

Contributed by Tony Choate, tribal media relations.

Tribal net income strong in face of cooling national economy

FINANCIAL REPORT

The tribal government caption includes the tribe's general fund and the tribe's BIA trust funds. The Chickasaw Businesses include all of the businesses and operations of the Chickasaw Enterprises. Not included in the financial statements are federally or state funded programs and/or grants and the financial statements of Bank 2 and Chickasaw Industries, Inc.

The growing needs of the businesses are taken into account when determining the transfers from the businesses to the general fund. It is vital to the long range mission of the Chickasaw Nation that the businesses continue to grow and diversify.

Revenues of the tribal operation, other than the transfer from businesses, include motor fuel settlement funds and investment income. Chickasaw Businesses revenues include gaming revenues net of prizes, sales revenue at convenience, travel plazas and tobacco stores, rent and investment income.

Tribal expenditures are classified by function. General government includes the maintenance and operations of tribal property, Chickasaw Times and governor's and lt. governor's offices. Expenditure for education includes education scholarship as well as the tribe's division of education. Health expenditures include senior citizens sites, eye glasses, hearing aids, prescription drugs, wellness center, community health clinics, catastrophic medical assistance and other similar programs not covered by federal programs or grants.

The businesses' expenditures are classified as to expenses associated with gaming operation of the tribe and the other businesses of the tribe.

Executive Summary of the Financial Statements of the period ending February 29, 2008

Tribal Government

Revenues and transfers from the businesses for operations and fixed assets totaled $37.9 million year-to-date. Expenditures were $5.2 million for the month and $24.4 million year-to-date. There has been a total, beginning in fiscal year 2004, of $91.0 million transferred from the businesses that were reserved for capital projects.

Chickasaw Businesses

Revenue net of gaming prizes for February totaled $61 million and $288 million year-to-date. Net income before the transfers to the Tribal Government was $21 million for the month and $93 year-to-date. After transfers to the Tribal Government for capital projects and tribal program operations the net income was $27 million year-to-date. The net income includes all revenue, including amounts reserved for business growth and expansion.

Statement of Net Assets

At February 29, 2008, the tribal government funds had $86 million in cash and investments. Of this amount, $12.4 million is in the BIA Trust funds. This total does not include any federal program funds.

The businesses had $209 million in cash and investments which is reserved for accounts payable and business operations.

As of February 29, 2008, tribe operations, excluding federal program funding, had assets totaling $828 million with $186 million in payables resulting in net assets of $642 million compared to $604 million at September 30, 2007or an increase of $38 million from, the end of fiscal year 2007.

Chickasaw Nation
Tribal Operations
Statement of Revenues and Expenditures
For the Five Months Ended February 29, 2008

		Tribal Government	Chickasaw Businesses	Total
Revenues	$	4,038,348	288,327,875	292,366,223
Transfers from businesses to tribal government		37,951,845	(37,951,845)	-
Total funds available		41,990,193	250,376,030	292,366,223
Expenditures				
General government		3,638,508		3,638,508
Legislature		656,731		656,731
Judiciary		357,826		357,826
Education		5,271,905		5,271,905
Heritage Preservation		1,328,433		1,328,433
Health		4,318,094		4,318,094
Youth and Family Services		3,082,921		3,082,921
Nutrition Programs		1,207,412		1,207,412
Regulatory		1,969,269		1,969,269
Assistance Programs		2,617,406		2,617,406
Transfer to Loan Program		-		-
Gaming expense			152,546,792	152,546,792
Other businesses' expense			70,447,903	70,447,903
Total expenditures		24,448,505	222,994,695	247,443,200
Increase in net assets		17,541,688	27,381,335	44,923,023
Beginning net assets		241,006,047	356,307,181	597,313,228
Ending net assets	$	258,547,735	383,688,516	642,236,251

Chickasaw Nation
Tribal Operations
Statement of Net Assets
February 29, 2008

		Tribal Government	Chickasaw Businesses	Total
Cash and Investments	$	86,436,619	209,342,152	295,778,771
Receivables		1,126,606	23,578,340	24,704,946
Inventory			4,737,608	4,737,608
Prepaid expenses			9,847,153	9,847,153
Other Assets			22,473,330	22,473,330
Fixed assets		171,533,371	299,418,874	470,952,245
Less payables		(548,860)	(185,708,942)	(186,257,802)
Net Assets	$	258,547,735	383,688,516	642,236,251

Birthdays

Chloe Ella Grace Miller celebrated her fourth birthday March 8, 2008 with a Hannah Montana theme party at the Chickasaw Nation Family Fun Center Lazer Zone. She celebrated with family and friends.

Chloe is the daughter of Marsha Miller and the granddaughter of Faye Miller and the late Jimmy Miller.

I love you!

Love your Mama.

Neely Alexis Wood turned nine-years-old February 27, 2008. She celebrated with a "High School Musical" theme bowling party Sunday, February 24 at the Durant (OK) Bowling Center with many family, friends and schoolmates.

She is daughter of Patricia Wood of Tishomingo, Okla., and the little sister of Kayla Jo Wood. She is the granddaughter of Larry and Eugenia Wood of Tishomingo, Phyllis Seymore of Bethany, Okla., and the late Joe Plumley. Her great-grandparents are Floyd and Joyce Hackworth of Bromide, Okla.

Neely is in Mrs. Anderson's third grade class at Tishomingo Elementary where she is on the Governor's Chickasaw Honor Roll and the Tishomingo Honor Roll. She is active in Upward soccer and Tish Little League softball. Neely enjoys playing pool and basketball, doing crafts with her Granny, climbing rocks and driving the Brister with her Nana and Pa.

Happy 9th Birthday Neely!

We Love You A lot!

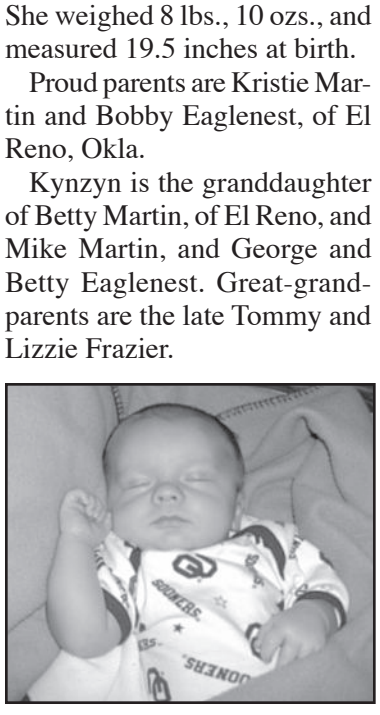
Births

Kynzyn Eaglenest

Kynzyn Ruth Eaglenest was born Jan. 31, 2008 at Integris Hospital, Yukon, Okla. She weighed 8 lbs., 10 ozs., and measured 19.5 inches at birth.

Proud parents are Kristie Martin and Bobby Eaglenest, of El Reno, Okla.

Kynzyn is the granddaughter of Betty Martin, of El Reno, and Mike Martin, and George and Betty Eaglenest. Great-grandparents are the late Tommy and Lizzie Frazier.



Boomer Pridemore

Boomer Pridemore was born Jan. 5, 2008 at 7:38 a.m. He weighed 5 lbs., 3 oz., and measured 18 1/2 inches at birth.

Boomer is the son of Chris and Mary Beth Pridemore, Luther, Okla.

He is the grandson of Crystal Lea Jones, and Brad and Tracie Pridemore. He is the great-grandson of Gary and Paula Jones, of Luther, and the great-great-grandson of Nanny Peggy Laffoon, Newcastle, Okla.

He is a fifth generation Chickasaw and a proud descendant of Chickasaw enrollee Viola May Byers (Johnston). The town of Byars (OK) was named after this family.

We will be looking forward to seeing Boomer in years to come on a little league All-Star players team, pee wee football, and eventually playing at Boomer Sooner Stadium. Go Sooners!

Aria Factor

Aria Marie Factor was born Feb. 21, 2008 at Tulsa. She weighed 6 lbs., 1 oz., and measured 18 inches at birth.

Proud parents are Eric and Brooke Factor, Glenpool, Okla.

She is the granddaughter of Terry Factor, Nancy Factor-McDaniel and David and Diane Spear.

Alex Jarrett

Daniel and Amber Jarrett, Ada, announce the birth of their son, **Alex Lee Jarrett**. Alex was born Dec. 24, 2007 at 10:30 p.m. at Valley View Regional Hospital, Ada, Okla.

He weighed 5 lbs., 13 oz., and measured 18.5 inches at birth.

He is the grandson of David and Angela Connor, Jimmy and Beverly Knight and Robin Jarrett, all of Coalgate, Okla. Great-grandparents are Maurice and Omega Williams, Jackie Acosta and the late L.J. and Darlene Knight.

Harley Jensen

Harley H.L. Jensen was born Aug. 4, 2007 at his grandparents home and delivered by his grandmother, Debra Perry. Although three-weeks early, he weighed 5 lbs., 1 oz., and measured 18 inches at birth.

Harley is the son of Tishina (Perry) and Harold Jensen, of Reno, Nev.

Present at their baby brother's birth, his siblings, Jordyn Perry, 7, and Haylee Jensen, 3 are very proud of their baby brother.

He is the grandson of Patrick and Debra Perry, Reno. He is the great-grandson of James and Patsy Perry, Ada, Okla., formerly of San Jose, Calif., and Marlis and the late Judy Hunter, Reno.

He is the great-great-grandson of Ruby McKinney, Ada, and the great-great-great-grandson of original enrollee the late Caroline (Illetewaka) Milligan, who graced our presence for 108 years.

Oklahoma House page

Amanda Shackleford, right, recently served as a page in the Oklahoma House of Representatives. Her sponsor was State Rep. Lisa J. Billy, left. Amanda had the opportunity to learn first hand how bills become laws. She also participated in a mock legislative session and toured the State Capitol. Both Amanda and Rep. Billy are Chickasaw citizens.

Military News

The Chickasaw Nation is updating the military database for those on active duty and stationed away from home. If you know of a Chickasaw you would like to add to the list or update their address, please contact Joy Barrick in the public affairs department at (580) 310-6451 or email joy.barrick@chickasaw.net.

Chickasaw dad on the path to second advanced degree

L. Wayne Edgar, a Chickasaw citizen who is taking his education to the next level.

A 38-year-old Chickasaw man epitomizes the tribe's ideal of life-long education and self-improvement. L. Wayne Edgar, 38 and the father of three, is pursuing his third academic degree and a second career.

Mr. Edgar is in his second year of law school at Oklahoma City University.

"I chose law school because it put me in a position where I could directly impact people's needs," Mr. Edgar said.

He recently attended a private convocation by U.S. Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer, during which he learned about the Justice's philosophies on what is appropriate and inappropriate behavior for judges. Justice Breyer also discussed the operations the Supreme Court.

"Ultimately, I want to be a judge, so I found this convocation helpful and fascinating," Mr. Edgar said. "It was a rare opportunity to discuss these issues with Breyer in such an informal setting."

Mr. Edgar is a member of the prestigious OCU Law Review, which prints scholarly articles by leading academics and practitioners. He has written articles on issues ranging from the Environmental Protection Agency regulations to the Chickasaw/Choctaw water rights.

He is also active in OCU's Native American Law Student Association.

Mr. Edgar is receiving the Chickasaw Nation Lifetime Scholarship, awarded to only five full-time Chickasaw students per academic year. He believes that this "blessing" from the tribe has made it possible for him to fulfill his ambitions to earn a law degree.

"The dedication that the Chickasaw Nation has for fostering higher education among the tribe is amazing," Mr. Edgar said. "Everyone should take advantage of the services in order to contribute back to society and the tribe."

Originally from Ada, Okla., the Edgar family relocated to Sulphur, Okla., where Mr. Edgar graduated from Sulphur High School in 1987. He earned a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Oklahoma in 1993 and a master's in business administration in management and economics from the University of Texas at Arlington in 2002.

Aside from his law school work, Mr. Edgar also works part time at the engineering company he established in 2005, Edgar and Associates, Inc. In his free time, Mr. Edgar, an avid artist, enjoys oil painting and drawing. He also likes to cycle and fly fish.

Mr. Edgar and his wife, Deana, live in Norman, Okla., with their children Madison, 8; Gibbon, 4; and Hayden, a newborn.

Contributed by Carrie Bradshaw, tribal media relations.

Honor Guard member enjoys serving people

Jimmy James

Chickasaw Honor Guard member Jimmy James has dedicated nearly 15 years of service to his tribe.

Mr. James is a charter member of the Honor Guard, along with Bill Spann, Bob Ross and Lieutenant Governor Jefferson Keel. He still can be seen at nearly every event in which the Honor Guard participates, and he serves as the Guard's public relations officer.

"It's such an honor and privilege to represent the Chickasaw Nation," Mr. James said. "The service we provide gives family members peace, and that makes me feel good."

Mr. James was born in Ada, Okla., in 1947, but his family relocated to Lubbock, Texas when he was a teenager.

Upon graduation from Lubbock High School in 1971, Mr. James was drafted into the Army, attended basic training in Fort Polk, Louisiana and was stationed at Fort Carson, Colorado.

While in the Army, he served as a member of the 4th Division tank crew and later as a commander.

During his stint, Mr. James did two tours in Germany, where he experienced both British and German cultures.

"It was definitely an adjustment," he said. "You could tell that there was some resentment from World War II, and sometimes they would refuse to speak English."

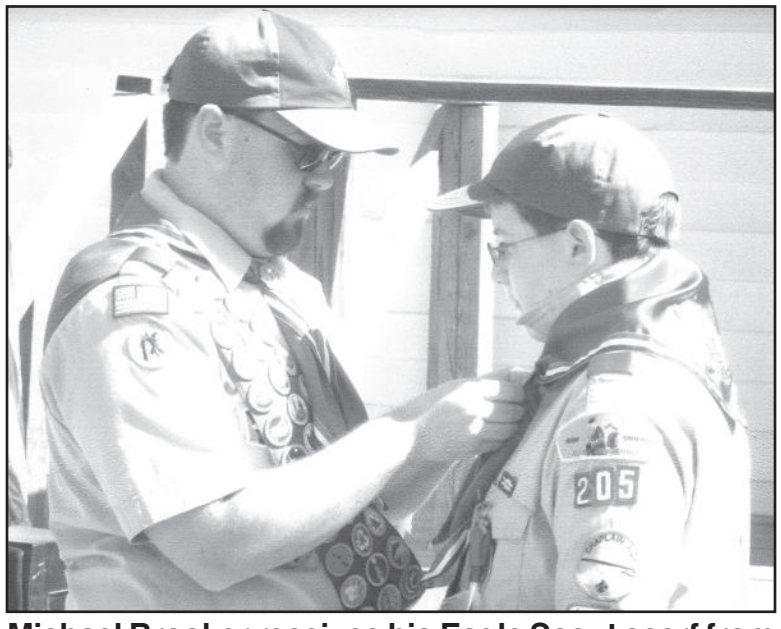
Mr. James also serves the tribe on the housekeeping staff of the Carl Albert Indian Health Facility. He has been in this position for 17 years.

When he's not working or participating in Honor Guard activities, Mr. James enjoys fishing, hunting and going to rodeos.

He and his wife, Peggy, live in Ada. He has two step-children and three step-grandchildren.

Contributed by Carrie Bradshaw, tribal media relations.

Chickasaw Scout earns Eagle



Michael Brooker receives his Eagle Scout scarf from his brother Shawn Brooker.

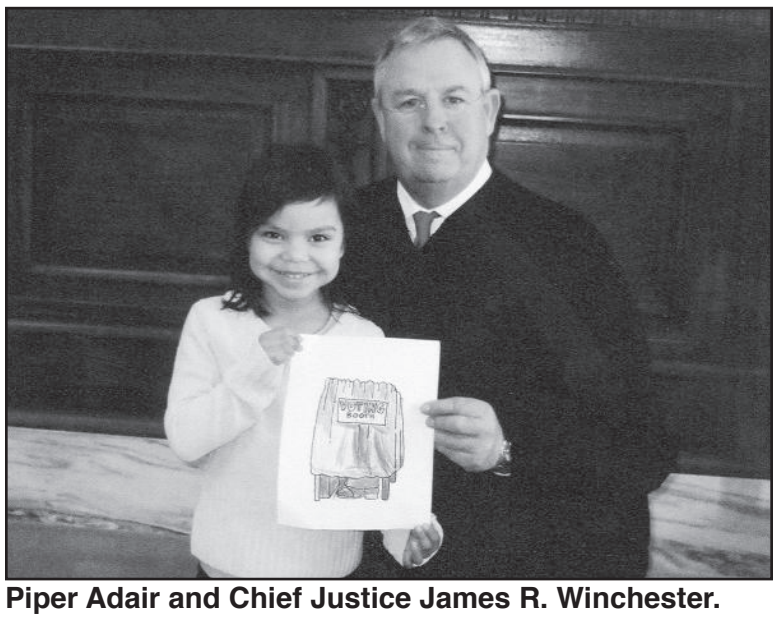
Boy Scout Troop 205 of Macdonna, Texas, awarded Michael Brooker his Eagle Scout on March 8, 2008. Shawn Brooker, who achieved his Eagle rank in March, 2006, placed the Eagle scarf on his brother.

Michael's Eagle project was to build four desks leading from the doors of the family's new church building.

Michael has an eagle feather attached to his Eagle pin, the feather was presented to him by Mr. Ricardo Cantu, an Apache Sun Dancer, who presided over the ceremony.

Shawn and Michael Brooker are both Chickasaw Community of South Texas.

Chickasaw girl wins state Law Day contest



Piper Adair and Chief Justice James R. Winchester.

A young Chickasaw student has recently been honored for her submission to a statewide contest. Five-year-old Piper Adair won first place in the pre-k division of the statewide Law Day coloring contest.

She went to the Oklahoma Supreme Court in Oklahoma City on Feb. 22 to meet Chief Justice James R. Winchester, the highest-ranking legal official in Oklahoma.

Piper was presented a $50 prize and a framed certificate. A presentation will take place in Tahlequah at a later date. A portion of the presentation will be shown on the Oklahoma Bar Association's "Ask A Lawyer" tv show on OETA May 1 at 7 p.m.

Piper attends Briggs Early Learning Center. She is Chickasaw, Keetoowah and Mississippi Choctaw.

She is the daughter of Mariah and David Adair. She has a sister, Nakiah Littlefox, and brother, D.J.

Her grandparents are Nancy Adair and Arnie Decker; Lou Greenwood Boston and the late Don Boston. Great grandparents are the late Geraldine and Virgil Greenwood.

California prep player named volleyball All-American

BRIANNA CLARKE

A Chickasaw athlete has recently been named a high school All-American.

Brianna Clarke; a Buchanan (CA) High School senior, was selected a 2007 PrepVolleyball.com All-American. Brianna earned the honor from among 150 players from 37 states.

"To be a High School All-American, candidates must have made a massive impact on their respective teams, but at a minimum required that you be the best player on your team and one of the top 10 high school players in California," according to PreVolleyball.com.

Brianna, a 6'1" middle blocker, was one of the top recruits in the Clovis, Calif. area; she began playing volleyball at age eight at high school camps. She began playing earnestly at Kastner Intermediate School in Clovis and eventually at Buchanan High School, where she was a four-year player on the varsity.

During her junior year, increased training, hard work and changes in her daily diet paid off as Brianna finished her senior year with 340 kills in 128 games and registered a .428 hitting efficiency. She put up a team high 110 solo blocks and had 47 digs and 35 aces for the year.

Brianna was named was named Tri-River Athletic Conference MVP while leading her team to it's third straight Central Section Division I title and a runner-up finish in the Southern California Division I Regionals.

Brianna has signed a letter of intent to play college volleyball with Fresno State University of the Western Athletic Conference.

Brianna is the daughter of Kevin and Jehri (Maytubby) Clark, of Clovis. She has a sister Erin, and brother, Braden.

She is the granddaughter of Bill (1/2 Chickasaw) and Sue Maytubby of Hanford, Calif., and George and Venita Clarke , of Huntington Beach, Calif. She is the great-granddaughter of the late Morris J. and Elsie Maytubby, of Lamont, Calif.

Morris J. Maytubby (4/4 Chickasaw) is an uncle to former Chickasaw Governor Overton James of Ada, Okla., and Chickasaw Historical Society (previous director) Chenena Roach, of Oklahoma City.

Visiting State Rep. Billy

Tia Shawnte recently visited Oklahoma State Representative Lisa J. Billy. Ms. Shawnte, a Chickasaw citizen, is a musician from Elmore City, Okla.

Johnson receives Murray State College Athletic Achievement Award

Chickasaw citizen Frank Johnson, center, receives the Murray State (OK) College Hall of Fame Athletic Achievement Award. Presenting Mr. Johnson the award Murray State College president Dr. Noble Jobe, right. At left is event coordinator Dub Raper.

A Chickasaw man has recently been honored for his athletic achievements and his contributions to his alma mater.

Frank Johnson, of Kingston, Okla., was presented the Murray State (OK) College Hall of Fame Athletic Achievement Award during ceremonies in January. The award is presented by the Murray State College Alumni Association.

Mr. Johnson attended Murray State, at Tishomingo, Okla., from 1958 to 1960. While at MSC, he was a junior college football All-American. In addition to his gridiron accomplishments, Mr. Johnson was also an exceptional track athlete and a Golden Gloves boxer.

Mr. Johnson serves as executive director of the Chickasaw Tribal Utility Authority. He is a former Chickasaw tribal legislator and Kingston city councilman. He currently serves on the Murray State College Board of Regents.

Mr. Johnson and his wife, Victoria, reside in Kingston.

Complete the Customer Service Survey and win!

Chickasaw citizens who complete a new tribal customer service survey will have the opportunity to win $100.

Chickasaws can access the Customer Service Survey by going to the tribal website at www.chickasaw.net. The survey seeks input from citizens regarding tribal programs, services and customer service.

Once you have completed the survey, you can enter the $100 giveaway. The $100 will be given away each quarter. Winners will be announced in *the Chickasaw Times*.

Billy receives 'Exceptional Commitment Award'

STATE REP. LISA BILLY

OKLAHOMA CITY – State Rep. Lisa J. Billy has been honored with The Oklahoma Academy's "Exceptional Commitment Award."

The Oklahoma Academy is a nonpartisan organization that works to identify issues facing Oklahoma and recommends solutions developed through a town hall process.

The group's "Exceptional Commitment Award" is provided to legislators who work with the Academy to implement town hall recommendations.

Rep. Billy, a Chickasaw, was singled out for her work to create an Office for Tribal Relations during the 2005 legislative session, a priority of the Academy that year.

"I appreciate The Oklahoma Academy's willingness to tackle tough issues and develop broad consensus," said Rep. Billy, (R-Purcell). "As a former Chickasaw legislator, I was proud to carry legislation to strengthen the ties between our state government and tribal governments and appreciate this recognition. It is an honor and I hope we can continue our productive relationship."

Tribal storyteller selected for China exchange program

LORIE ROBINS

A Chickasaw storyteller will represent both her tribe and her home state when she travels to China this month as part of a cultural exchange program.

Lorie Robins is eagerly anticipating her 13-day journey as a "People to People Citizen Ambassador," and the new experiences the trip promises to hold.

"When I was first invited to be a part of this delegation I was overwhelmed," Ms. Robins said. "Because I am still viewed as a beginner by most storytellers, I thought that only the most experienced of storytellers received invitations like this."

Ms. Robins was selected for the program through the National Storytellers Network. She is part of a contingent of 15 professional and cultural individuals from around the United States invited on the trip, which is set for April 14-26.

Ms. Robins has the distinction of being both the only Oklahoman and the sole Native American in the group. She is a recognized storyteller who presents her talents on behalf of the Chickasaw Nation. She travels all over Oklahoma presenting traditional Southeastern stories to many organization and educational groups. She has been a Chickasaw storyteller for about 10 years.

Ms. Robins is the performing arts coordinator within the tribe's Division of Arts and Humanities.

She will spend her first days in China in the city of Beijing, the political and administrative center of the People's Republic of China.

Many items of interest are included on the trip's agenda, including a visit to the Great Wall of China and a side trip to the 600-year-old town of Guiyan.

Several discussions relating to storytelling are planned, including the role of the storyteller throughout Chinese history. Ms. Robins hopes to learn as well as share during the trip.

"I hope to learn everything I can about this culture and their traditions of storytelling and compare it to my culture," she said. "In turn, I want to teach the Chinese and all the delegates about Chickasaw traditions of storytelling and show how storytelling is an art that everyone can relate to."

Ms. Robins said she has found through her research that cultures that seem far apart have one common denominator.

"All cultures have traditional storytelling, she said.

"It is an honor to be a keeper of stories that my teacher passed down to me, and it is an honor to be able to share these stories with a culture that seems to us to be on the other side of the world."

Contributed by Dana Hudspeth, tribal media relations.

Chickasaw artist influenced by ancestors' experiences

Zach Presley and his exhibit at Ada's Old Bank Gallery.

A grandmother's tales of her Native American childhood have influenced the art of her great-grandson. Zach Presley, Chickasaw artist, uses the theme of duality and finding common ground when drawing inspiration for his pieces.

Presley, an Ada, Okla., resident, recalls the feeling he got from hearing the few stories his great-grandmother told of her experiences at Bloomfield Academy for girls.

"I would always get this sense of her not knowing which side to follow," Presley said. "Was she to stay close to the culture of her ancestors, or was she to follow what she was being taught?"

He said his great-grandmother didn't like to talk too much about her experience at Bloomfield. His grandmother filled in the gaps with more information after his great-grandmother passed away.

As a child, he would gather rose stones and carve tiny animals out of them. He had an affinity for drawing.

"I was too young to remember any of this," Presley said, "but my mom told me that I was always 'making' something and that she could tell I was going to be an artist."

He took his first formal art lesson in oil painting at age 12 and held his love of art throughout his years at Byng (OK) High School.

It was during college that he finally found his niche in the visual arts, with guidance from the faculty of the East Central University Art Department.

Much of Presley's work is collage, a method partly influenced by his grandfather. In his artist's statement, he describes how he would watch his grandfather in his workshop.

"He would give us a handful of nails and a few old hammers, point to the pile of scrap wood and say 'go to work,'" Presley said. "And this is very much like the way I work today, I acquire my media and 'go to work.'"

Andy Warhol, Robert Rauschenberg and other pop artists are among Presley's top influences.

Presley serves as the assistant director of the children's center each summer at Idyllwild Summer Arts Program in Idyllwild, Calif. The academy, which hosts more than 1,300 children, teens and adults each summer, has a renowned Native American arts program.

"The energy and creativity of the children invigorates me," Presley said. "When I go there, it helps to re-charge my creative batteries."

In this position, he also has the opportunity to meet many top artists, educators and art critics.

"It's amazing to be surrounded by people who are so passionate about the arts," he said, "I learn as much from them as they learn from me."

A senior art student at ECU, Presley hopes to attend graduate school following his graduation in May.

Contributed by Carrie Bradshaw, tribal media relations.

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Tribal commitment helps young students shine

Chickasaw Head Start celebrates 30 years of service

Chickasaw Nation Ardmore Head Start students Zoe Watkins and Kennedy Barnett smile after graduation ceremonies in May 2007.

Thirty years can fly by when you are teaching classrooms full of three- and four-year-olds.

The Chickasaw Nation Head Start program was established in 1978. In that inaugural year, the tribe operated one center serving 33 children ages three and four years.

Since that humble beginning, the program has expanded to six centers serving more than 250 children throughout the Chickasaw Nation. Head Start centers are now located in Ada, Ardmore, Duncan, Madill, Sulphur and Tishomingo.

The Chickasaw Nation Head Start is a federally-funded program. The program benefits from generous additional dollars contributed by the Chickasaw Nation.

The tribal Head Start offers a complete family-focused, child-development education plan.

Head Start is a national program that serves children ages three to four from income-eligible families. The program focuses on the family as the most important influence in a child's life and offers components in education, parent or guardian involvement, health, social services and services for children with disabilities.

The mission of Chickasaw Nation Head Start is to develop enhanced social achievement in children of low-income families. The outcome of the program is children with greater opportunities to succeed in elementary and secondary school. Head Start is designed to positively assist children in their present environment and help develop skills needed in school and life.

"Quality education is important in early developmental stages of young children," said Governor Bill Anoatubby. "Through our Head Start program, children develop learning skills important for future educational achievements."

High Reach, a nationally-approved curriculum, is taught in the Head Start classrooms using interactive whiteboards, known as SmartBoards. Children are also educated through learning centers. Learning centers are classroom environments that enhance and promote child developmental levels during early childhood. The learning centers provide children opportunities to develop motor skills, self-help actions, and social, cognitive and language skills. Learning centers are located in each classroom and include art, computer, cooking, math, music and cultural elements.

To enhance learning, a number of educational activities and programs are conducted throughout the year. Through the Reading Is Fundamental program, children select and take home three books each year. The program also enlists volunteers who visit Head Start classrooms to read and participate in activities with children and parents.

"Head Start provides a Sleep Safe program which allows us the opportunity to install smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors in our families' homes," said Danny Wells, Chickasaw Nation Head Start director. "Head Start also offers a gun lock safety program through the Chickasaw Lighthorse Police."

Head Start centers celebrate holidays throughout the year by planning activities in which children and parents can participate together. Easter egg hunts, viewing Christmas lights and enjoying Thanksgiving dinner are some of the special times together.

Children have the opportunity to attend educational tours and field trips and participate in events such as parades, Chickasaw Festival tours, language classes and the Children's Fair.

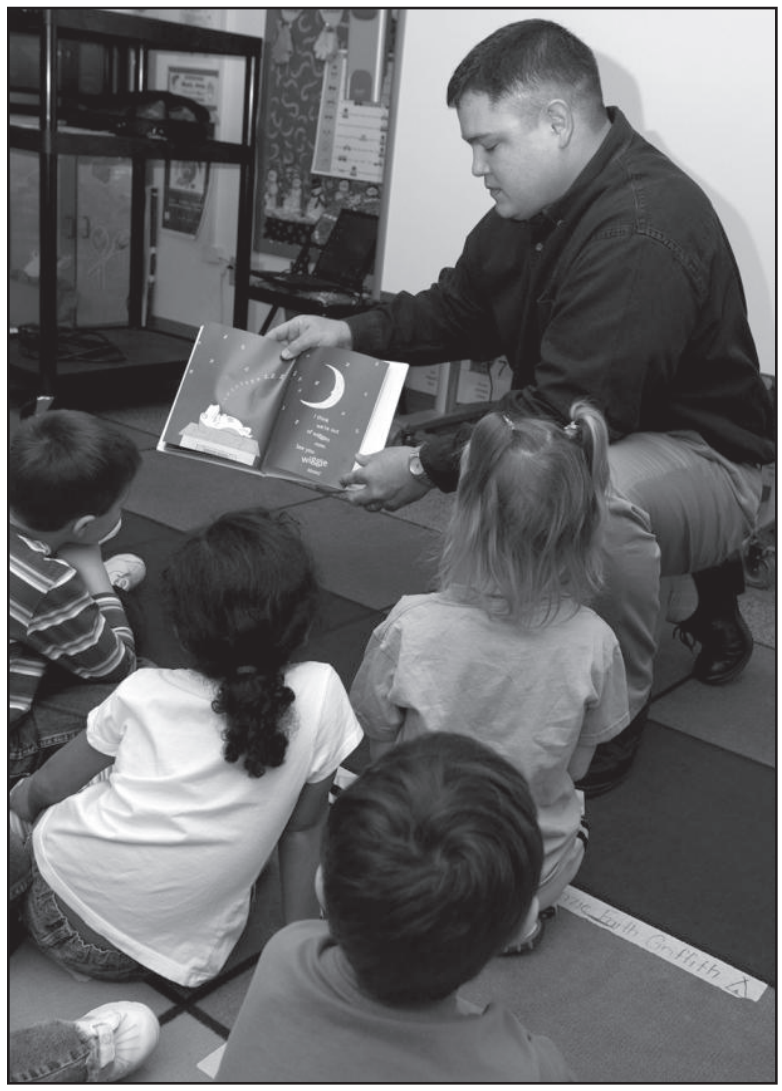
"We also offer monthly parent meetings to provide information and trainings for parents," said Wells. "These meetings allow parents an opportunity to make suggestions for ways to improve our services for their families and to plan activities for the children."

In May, Head Start graduation ceremonies will be conducted at each of the centers. Approximately150 children will graduate.

Applications for the Head Start program are accepted at the Chickasaw Nation Child Care Center or Head Start Centers throughout the service area. Applications can also be mailed or faxed to applicants. Once the application with required documentation is completed and returned to the center, the child will be placed on a waiting list and a Federal Priority Ranking system is used to select children for the program.

For more information about the Chickasaw Nation Head Start program and to obtain an application, contact Chickasaw Nation Head Start director Danny Wells at (580) 436-7276, an area Head Start center or visit www.chickasaw.net.

Contributed by Brooke Tidwell, tribal media relations.



Through the Chickasaw Nation Head Start guest reading program, Jason Campbell with the Choctaw Nation Success Through Reading Academic Recognition (STAR) program reads to Madill Head Start students.

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Daily word usage encouraged

Themes help teach children Chickasaw language

Destanye Moore and Lauren Burden learn new Chickasaw words during the October Chepota Chikasha Anumpoli meeting. Destanye and Lauren were two of many children who attended the first language club meeting conducted through the tribal Division of Education.

Chickasaw children are once again speaking our native language.

Monthly meetings of "Chepota Chikasha Anumpoli" are reinvigorating spoken Chickasaw among our youngest citizens. The tribal Division of Education is working to preserve tribal culture and language with the meetings, known in English as "Children Speaking Chickasaw."

"The club has created a wonderful opportunity for families with small children in our community to come together and learn more about the Chickasaw language and culture and participate in fun activities," said tribal Vocational Rehabilitation director Michelle Wilson.

Chepota Chikasha Anumpoli meetings are part of a Chickasaw language club for children up to age nine. The club focuses on the importance of using the Chickasaw language in daily life. Each month the club meets to practice speaking Chickasaw language and incorporating newly introduced Chickasaw words related to monthly themes.

Chickasaw children learn to speak the language, take exciting field trips, do arts and crafts and learn Chickasaw culture and history. The students are encouraged to speak the language while participating in the activities and during everyday conversations.

"My little boy, Colton, is six years old and he really missed learning Chickasaw words when he transferred into public school from the Chickasaw Nation Head Start," said Wilson. "This club has given him the opportunity to keep learning about his native language and culture, which is very important to our family."

More than 80 children attended the initial class. The theme was "Fall Fun Day" and children learned Chickasaw words related to the season. Children and parents met at the Chickasaw Nation Community Center and gathered into groups to participate in language activities.

Each meeting focuses on monthly themes such as "Archery Fun Day" in November, "Christmas Fun Day" in December and "Music Fun Day in January." Children have the opportunity to learn theme-related words and incorporate the language during daily activities.

Eight-year-old Chelsea Wedlow, a third-grader at Allen (OK) Public Schools, is excited about the language club. She uses what she learns at home and with her church youth group. She sings Choctaw hymns with the Boiling Springs United Methodist Church in Lula, Okla., as part of the youth group choir.

"I really like the activities we do in the language club," Chelsea said. "It is fun to learn about Chickasaw culture. After the Fall Fun Day, I took what I learned to church and shared it with everyone."

Club meetings occur one Saturday each month and are open to children up to nine years of age interested in learning Chickasaw. The next Chepota Chikasha Anumpoli language club meeting is Chickasaw Dance Fun Day on Saturday, April 19, at Wintersmith Lodge in Ada.

For more information, visit www.chickasaw.net/cca <http://www.chickasaw.net/cca> or contact Michelle Wilson at (580) 436-0553 or Valorie Walters at (580) 436-0877.

Contributed by Brooke Tidwell, tribal media relations.

Northern Pontotoc council meets at Tri-City in Newcastle

The Northern Pontotoc Chickasaw Community Council conducted its monthly meeting March 13 at the Chickasaw training facility at the Tri-City Shopping Center in Newcastle, Okla. Tom Hogland called the meeting to order, led us in a prayer, flag salute, and roll call of officers.

Visitors at the meeting included Linda Williams, Director of the Purcell area office, Roman Kilcrease, from the Cultural Resources Department, Katie Case, Legislator, and Sharon Nelson, our liaison for the community councils. We would like to thank Linda Williams for speaking about the Chickasaw Summer Youth Program. Also thank you to Roman Kilcrease who is the Cultural Reservation Coordinator and introduced Jason Carpenter and Jami Lewis from the Chickasaw Dance Troupe. We were able to view a video of the Dance Troupe. A Goal Committee was formed by Doug Henning, Jim Wynne, Todd Griffith and Pam Lee. Sharon spoke to us about the information available on Chickasaw culture and language. There are DVDs, dictionaries, and books available at the Outpost in Ada. Door prizes were given out and the meeting was adjourned. Please feel welcome to visit our next meeting held the second Thursday of each month at the Chickasaw Training Facility in Newcastle.

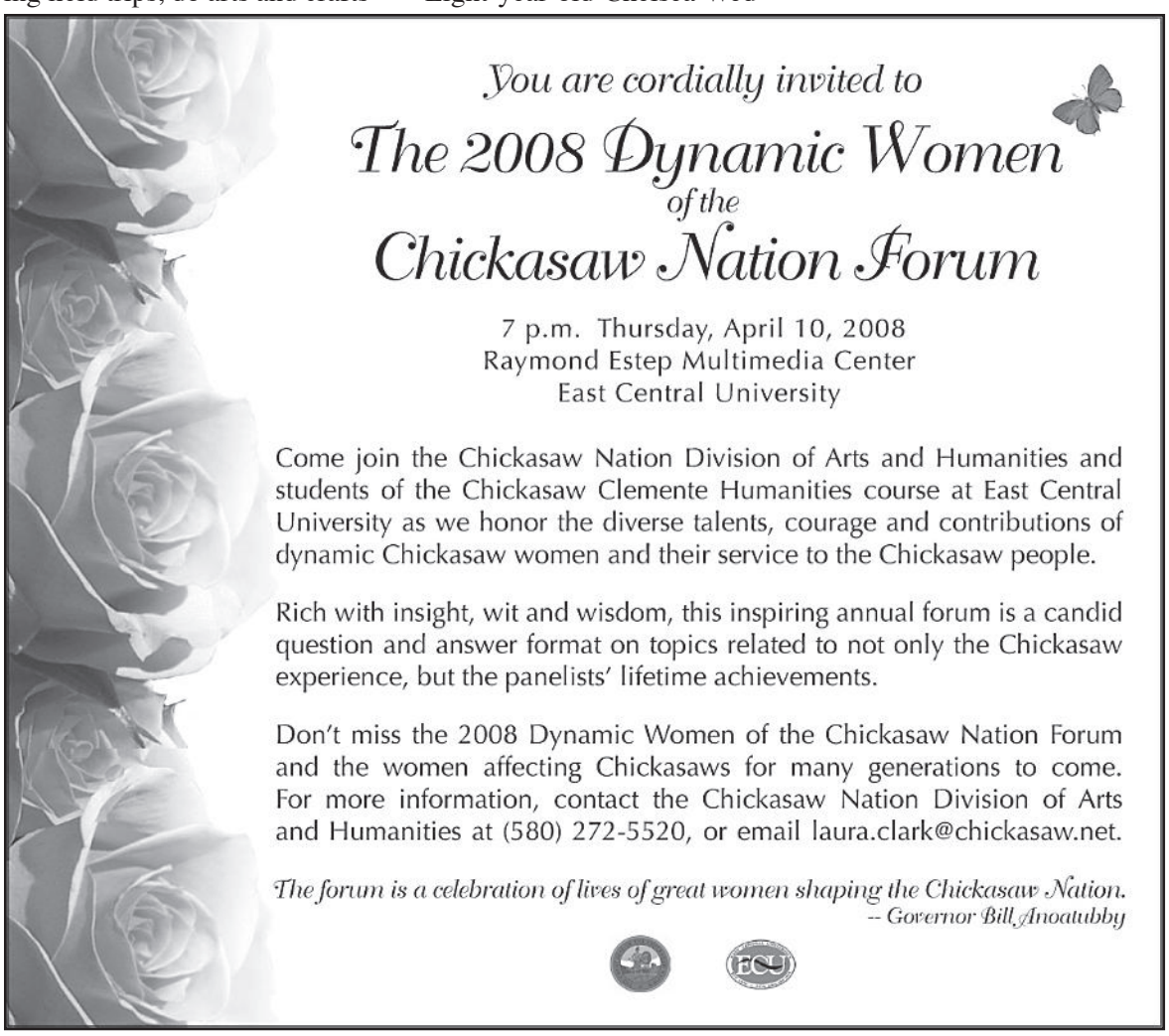
Purcell council to meet April 22

The Purcell Chickasaw Community Council will meet April 22, 2008, at 6 p.m. for a meal with the business meeting to begin at 7 p.m. The location will be announced at a later date.

New officers, elected at the March 25, 2008, meeting will take office at this time. Names are unavailable as the election is held too late to meet the deadline for this issue.

Citizens At-Large Help Number

For information on services or help with questions, call toll-free 1-866-466-1481.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7 p.m. Thursday, April 10, 2008
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Come join the Chickasaw Nation Division of Arts and Humanities and students of the Chickasaw Clemente Humanities course at East Central University as we honor the diverse talents, courage and contributions of dynamic Chickasaw women and their service to the Chickasaw people.
Rich with insight, wit and wisdom, this inspiring annual forum is a candid question and answer format on topics related to not only the Chickasaw experience, but the panelists' lifetime achievements.
Don't miss the 2008 Dynamic Women of the Chickasaw Nation Forum and the women affecting Chickasaws for many generations to come. For more information, contact the Chickasaw Nation Division of Arts and Humanities at (580) 272-5520, or email laura.clark@chickasaw.net.
The forum is a celebration of lives of great women shaping the Chickasaw Nation.
-- Governor Bill Anoatubby
ECU

Wichita council enjoys March 1 Chickasaw Gathering

Gov. Bill Anoatubby visits with, from left, Evelyn Patterson, Fran Elliott and Jack Patterson at the Wichita Gathering. The Pattersons are from Arkansas City, Kan.

The Chickasaw Gathering at the Hyatt Regency March 1 was deemed by organizers as a success. Gov. Anoatubby and staff members of the Chickasaw government agencies met and informed more than 100 Chickasaws and their families.

There were 91 who attended the Gathering, 59 of them Chickasaw citizens, plus 15 others who came to register for citizenship. One registration official commented that 235 invitations were mailed. That means that 25 percent of citizens invited showed up, well over the typical turnout of 10 percent.

The gathering featured booths representing the different phases of the Chickasaw government, plus a buffet and drawings for prizes throughout the afternoon.

The Chickasaw Community Council of Wichita will be host May 10 to the Chickasaw Dance Troupe, who will perform a stomp dance exhibition 6 to 9 p.m. at the Mid-America All Indian Center. Other activities will include Indian Arts and Crafts, Indian vendors and Indian tacos.

On May 9 and 10, a Mountain Man rendezvous will be hosted at the center. On May 9 there will be demonstrations on traditional living and cooking, beadworking, fire by friction and the tomahawk throw, between 9:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. May 10 will feature a dance exhibition and cultural arts between the hours of 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.

These two activities will be part of the Wichita's weeklong annual Riverfest celebration.

Admission is free with a Riverfest button. Parking will be across the street from the Center.

The next meeting for the Chickasaw Council will be April 20 at 3 p.m. at the Mid-America All Indian Center. Our invited guest is Roman Kilcrease, Cultural Preservation Coordinator, who will speak about the upcoming Dance Troupe's program. Our other guest will be Sharon Nelson, Chickasaw Community Council Liaison, who will be bringing supplies and information from the Chickasaw Nation.

Please come and enjoy what promises to be a wonderfully informative meeting.

Tribal GIS crew showcases geo-data project

Representatives of the Chickasaw Nation Geographic Information Systems attended GIS Day at the Oklahoma Capitol. Pictured from left are John Ellis, Dawn Sowinski, Misti Ray and Manerd Gayler. Not pictured are Corey Gillum, Adam Drannon and Robert Hicks.

Representatives of the Chickasaw Nation Geographic Information Systems (GIS) participated in the Oklahoma State Capitol's GIS Day on March 12.

"This was a special opportunity for members of our department," said John Ellis, Director of GeoSpatial Information. "They get to see how other professionals are utilizing GIS around the state."

The tribal GIS workers were among 30 federal, state, county and municipal agencies from across Oklahoma who came to showcase their GIS efforts.

The Chickasaw Nation's GeoSpatial Information department exhibited its latest endeavors at the event. Included were the department's efforts using small-scale data correction and incorporating high resolution aerial photography into their geo-data center.

The new Chickasaw Nation intranet service was the focal point of the Chickasaw Nation exhibit. As a mapping site, the new service features numerous layers featuring land holdings, original Native American allotted lands, Chickasaw Nation facilities and parcels with owner information for the entire Chickasaw Nation service area.

"We were able to see additional uses for GIS." said Ellis. "The gathering also enabled us to find new data sources and establish connections with other users so we can improve mapping products for the Chickasaw Nation."

Contributed by Carrie Bradshaw, tribal media relations.

Texans making moccasins

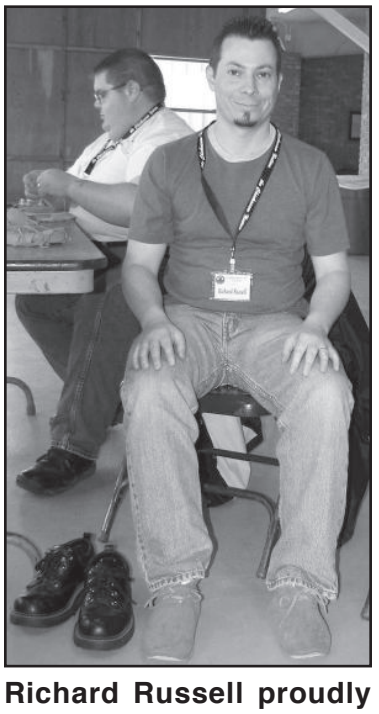
Central Texas Chickasaw Community Council's first moccasin making class left to right, Michele Moody, Theresa Velazquez, Angel Velazquez and Lori Ann Oakley are shown having fun making their first authentic Native American moccasins.

The Central Texas Community Council conducted its first Moccasin Making Class on March 1. Ten students made a complete pair of moccasins for their own use. The students all were very pleased with their new handmade moccasins.

Lori Ann Oakley shows off her completed moccasins.

In addition, the Council conducted its regular monthly meeting on March 8 at the Mexican American Cultural Center in Austin, Texas. The meeting was used to present a good overview of the Listening Conference for those who did not have the opportunity to attend.

Several members plan to attend the Listening Conference scheduled for April 5 in Hewitt, Texas.



Richard Russell proudly displays his completed moccasins as Jay Laxton, in the background, completes his moccasins.

Storm shelter program popular with 'Tornado Alley' citizens

With the storm season approaching, anyone living in "Tornado Alley" would agree that a storm shelter is a necessary piece of property.

The Chickasaw Nation Division of Housing and Tribal Development's Storm Shelter program has proved to be one of the most requested services offered. This could be due to one reason: security.

"I might just paint 'Peace of Mind' on the door," Chickasaw citizen Lois Ward said of her shelter.

Mrs. Ward, 75, lives in Bartlesville, Okla. She received her shelter late last fall. She had a little trouble on where to place it, but thinks it's worth it.

"I'm so thankful for it," she said, "I don't care if it does take up my back yard!"

Mrs. Ward doesn't hesitate when it comes to sharing her newfound security with her friends, family and neighbors.

"They know that my gate is always open and my cellar doors are unlocked," she said, "even if I'm not at home."

For Oklahoma citizens, the storm shelter service provides storm shelters for privately owned homes within the 13-county service area. This service is also available to citizens at large.

Since its establishment in April of 2003, the program has provided 975 shelters inside the Chickasaw Nation service area, and 109 shelters at large.

"A lot of the people we provide shelters for would not be able to afford them otherwise," said Terry Davis, Housing Management director. "This program brings comfort to our citizens knowing that they have a safe place for their families to go when turbulent weather occurs."

If a citizen is elderly or disabled, he has the option to have an above ground "safe room," or an above ground shelter installed for easier access.

To be eligible for placement on the waiting list for a storm shelter, citizens must have no outstanding debt with the Housing Division or the Chickasaw Nation. The home at which the shelter will be placed must be the applicant's primary residence.

For more information on receiving a storm shelter, call (580) 421-8800 or send a request for an application to P.O. Box 788, Ada, OK 74821.

Contributed by Carrie Bradshaw, tribal media relations.

Middle school students invited to 'Oklahoma Science Adventure'

The Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History is excited to present a discovery-based summer program called Oklahoma Science Adventure Sunday, July 6 through Saturday, July 12. Selected students will learn about the different science "ologies" during a one-week field camp.

The museum is recruiting students who are enthusiastic about science, and who may not have opportunities to experience science first-hand. Selected students will spend a week exploring science activities and traveling to several different parts of Oklahoma to collect data, excavate fossils, hike, canoe and make new friends.

Oklahoma Science Adventure applications are open to all Oklahoma resident students currently enrolled in grades 6, 7 and 8. Limited space is available and participating students will be selected based on a completed application. Application includes student, parent or guardian and teacher sections. A refundable $20 fee will be issued to reserve a space if selected for the program and all meals and housing are provided. This fee will be returned on the last day of the program.

For more information, call (405) 325-2802 or email at explorology@snomnh.ou.edu. To access the Oklahoma Science Adventure application, visit http://www.snomnh.ou.edu/publicprograms/explorology/ok_science_adventure.htm.

Submit completed application to:

ExplorOlogy Coordinator
Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History
2401 Chautauqua Ave.
Norman, OK 73072

The deadline to submit a completed application is Monday, April 28. Students selected to participate in the program will be notified by May 16.

Contributed by Brooke Tidwell, tribal media relations.

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CHICKASAW COMMUNITY COUNCILS MONTHLY MEETINGS

~~~ Meetings are subject to change, please call the contact person to confirm ~~~

Ada Chickasaw Community Council
3rd Thursday at 6:30 pm
Marie Bailey Community Center
1800 Jack John Circle
Ada, OK
Pat Cox, Chair
580-272-0549

Connerville Area Chickasaw Community Council
2nd Monday at 6:30 pm
Chickasaw Senior Citizen Site
Connerville, OK
Tony Poe, Chair
580-421-4994
tony.poe@chickasaw.net

Johnston County Chickasaw Community Council
3rd Monday at 6:30 pm
Chickasaw Community Building
1109 Ray Branum Road
Tishomingo, OK
Ann Fink, Chair
580-371-3351
flora.fink@chickasaw.net

Marshall County Chickasaw Community Council
2nd Tuesday at 7:00 pm
Marshall County Chickasaw Community Center
1400 Enos Road
Kingston, OK
Patricia Bostick, Chair
580-564-2975

Northern Pontotoc Chickasaw Community Council
2nd Thursday at 7:00 pm
Chickasaw Enterprises Training Center
400 NW 32nd Hwy. 37
Newcastle, OK
Tom Hogland, Chair
405-381-2268

OKC Metro Chickasaw Community Council
1st Tuesday at 7:00 pm
Lakepointe Towers, Sixth Floor
4005 N.W. Expressway
Oklahoma City, OK
Pam Conard, Chair
405-973-8127
drprconard@cox.net

CALIFORNIA ~~~

Inland Empire/Desert Cities Chickasaw Community Council
San Gorgonio Memorial Hospital
600 North Highland Springs Ave.
Banning, CA
Lynn M. Dorrough, Chair
909-213-7273
liknryn@hotmail.com

KANSAS ~~~

Chickasaw Community Council of Wichita, KS
3rd Sunday at 3:00 pm
Mid-American All Indian Center
650 N. Seneca
Wichita, KS
Lynn Stumblingbear, Chair
316-945-9219
lynnstumblingbear@hotmail.com
Pam Harjo, Vice-Chair
316-393-0696

NEW MEXICO ~~~

New Mexico Chickasaw Community Council
Albuquerque, New Mexico
Next meeting March 29, 2008
Call for time and location
Chris Rodke, Chair
505-980-1368
Chickasaw.nm@gmail.com

TEXAS ~~~

Chickasaw Community Council of South Texas
San Antonio, TX Area
Call for time and location
Michele Moody, Chair
210-492-2288
mmoody@RedlandSolutions.com

Chickasaw Community Council of Central Texas
Austin, Texas Area
Meetings held monthly
Call for time and location
Gene Thompson, Chair
512-258-7919
genevivianthompson@hotmail.com

North Texas Chickasaw Community Council
Dallas/Fort Worth Area, TX
Meetings held monthly
Call for time and location
John C. Atkins, Chair
972-271-0692
Injunjon2@verizon.net

Leadership, Chickasaw commitment featured at UNITY

Chickasaws gathered in Washington, D.C. recently for the Mid-Year UNITY Conference. From left, Colt Digby, Youth Specialist, Pickens District; Tonya Bierce, Youth Leadership Coordinator; Chickasaw Ambassador to the United States Charles Blackwell; and youth council members Laura Ash and Chance Brown.

Two Chickasaw youth council members recently traveled to Washington, D.C., where they studied tribal leadership and problem solving.

Laura Ash, Ardmore (OK) High School sophomore and Dickson (OK) High School junior Chance Brown attended the United Native Indian Tribal Youth (UNITY) Mid-Year conference in the nation's capital February 13-17. Both students represent the Chickasaw youth in the Pickens District.

The conference is designed to address concerns and issues that affect Native American communities. During the conference, Chance and Laura gained leadership skills and had the opportunity to interact with government officials and elected representatives.

"It was cool to see that the people in the DC run their government kind of like we run the Youth Council," Chance said, "except they have to deal with bigger problems."

The paid shared lunch with Chickasaw Ambassador to the United States Charles Blackwell and met U.S. Congressman Dan Boren (D-Muskogee). Rep. Boren's assistant Scott Smith, along with Ambassador Blackwell's assistant Rusty Pickens, conducted a personalized tour of the Capitol for Laura and Chance.

"It was so exciting to meet them in person," Chance said of Blackwell and Boren.

"Everything is so fast-paced and different in Washington D.C.," Laura said. "When I got home, I found myself moving faster trying to fix things and make things better for the council."

The council members and their advisors also had the chance to interact with other tribal youth councils.

"It made us feel very fortunate for what the Chickasaw Nation does for us," said Tonya Bierce, Youth Leadership coordinator, "We got to see that not every council has as much support from their tribe as we do."

During the conference, presentations were made to educate tribal youth about the dangers of alcohol and drug abuse.

"Seeing that made me want to stay away from those types of things even more," Laura said.

The United National Indian Tribal Youth is a national organization focused on the personal development, leadership and citizenship of Native American youth.

"Getting to meet new people was the best part," Laura said, "I'd definitely go again!"

Laura, daughter of Laurice Sampson and Jimmy Ash, is the president of the Chickasaw Nation Pickens District Youth Council.

Chance is the son of Peggy Brawley and Kevin Bates. He is the secretary for the Chickasaw Nation Pickens District Youth Council.

Contributed by Carrie Bradshaw, tribal media relations.

Chickasaw Nation Head Start centers celebrate Easter

Four-year-old Patience Loboda, of Sulphur, Okla., surveys her basket full of eggs after the Sulphur Head Start hunt at Chickasaw National Recreation Area March 14. Her parents are Mariana Dilbeck and Mike Loboda.

Sulphur Head Start student Abbie O'Dell enjoys a hot dog after the Easter Egg Hunt. Lunch was provided by the Murray County Kiwanis. Abbie's parents are Lacie O'Dell and Trevor O'Dell.

Mike McKee

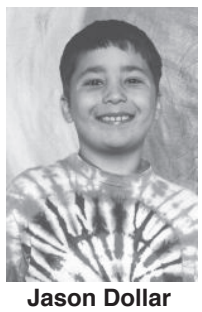
Students from Brenda Stephens' class take inventory of the Easter Eggs they found following the annual hunt, which took place March 14. The students also played on inflatable slides and rock walls, and got to see farm animals up close.

Counting their Easter Eggs at the Ada Head Start egg hunt are, from left, Lauren Key, Micah Postoak, and Lastenia Lainez-Ortiz.

February Outstanding Achievement Award recipients

Jason Dollar

Jason Dollar, son of Billy Dollar and Crystal Deaton, of Tishomingo, Okla., is a February 2008 recipient of the Chickasaw Honor Club Outstanding Achievement Award in Citizenship.


Jason Dollar

Jason is in the third grade at Tishomingo Elementary School and was nominated by third grade teacher Syrena Moreland and Principal Gary Webb.

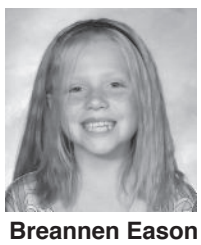
"Jason is an excellent example for other students to follow," said Ms. Moreland. "He consistently sets the bar very high academically with his study habits and work ethic."

His hobbies include football, basketball, baseball, soccer and fishing. Jason has been on the Tishomingo Honor Roll and is a member of the Chickasaw Honor Club. He has also received many medals competing in Junior Olympics.

"When I grow up I want to play football in college and then hopefully in the NFL," said Jason.

Breannen Eason

Breannen Eason, daughter of Ty and Jade Eason, of Tishomingo, Okla., is a February 2008 recipient of the Chickasaw Honor Club Outstanding Achievement Award in Academics.


Breannen Eason

Breannen is in the fourth grade at Tishomingo Elementary School and was nominated by fourth grade teacher Crystal Gilbert.

"Breannen is an outstanding student," said Ms. Gilbert. "Her classroom behavior and attitude toward her studies is remarkably positive."

Breannen is a member of the Johnston County 4-H Club and the Chickasaw Honor Club. Breannen has been on the Superintendent's Honor Roll the past three years. Her hobbies include basketball, softball, swimming and drawing.

"In the future, I plan on playing basketball, running track and making good grades," said Breannen. "My biggest goal in life is to become a vet and take care of animals."

Matt Mayes

Matt Mayes, son of Roger and Carrie Mayes, of Purcell, Okla., is a February 2008 recipient of the Chickasaw Honor Club Outstanding Achievement Award in Athletics.

Matt is a junior at Purcell High School and was nominated by head football coach Mike Wilson.

"Matt is an exceptional student athlete at Purcell High School," said Mr. Wilson. "His successes are a testimony to his hard work."

Matt is a member of the National Honor Society and the Superintendent's Honor Roll. Matt's hobbies include playing baseball and football.

"In the future, I plan to attend college and possibly play baseball," said Matt.

Sara Miller

Sara Miller, daughter of Steve and Carla Miller, of Ada, Okla., is a February 2008 recipient of the Chickasaw Honor Club Outstanding Achievement Award in Athletics.

Sara Miller

Sara is a sophomore at Latta High School and was nominated by high school Principal Stan Cochran.

"Sara is an integral part of our school's athletic program through her character and attitude in softball and basketball," said Mr. Cochran.

Sara enjoys playing fast- and slow-pitch softball and basketball. She is a 2008 American Heart Association Sweetheart and was recognized at the American Heart Association ball in February. She has recently been nominated to participate in the National Youth Leadership Forum on Medicine.

During Spring Break, Sara also participated in a mission trip to Belize with Chickasaw Nation Youth and Family Services.

"In the future, I plan on attending the University of Oklahoma," said Sara.

Madisen Moore

Madisen Moore, daughter of Carlos and Bridget Moore of Ardmore, Okla., is a February 2008 recipient of the Chickasaw Honor Club Outstanding Achievement Award for Overall Accomplishment.

Madisen Moore

Madisen is in the second grade at Franklin Elementary in Ardmore and was nominated by second grade teacher Lisa Conway.

"Madisen is a pleasure to have in class and school," said Ms. Conway. "Madisen can be depended upon for any given task and is responsible."

She has been on the Superintendent's Honor Roll and the Principal's Honor Roll. Madisen is also a member of the Chickasaw Honor Club.

Her hobbies include singing in her church choir, reading, drawing and shopping. Madisen also enjoys basketball, soccer and T-ball.

"When I grow up, I want to be a doctor to help sick kids," said Madisen. "I would also like to play the piano and be famous."

Ryan Woerz

Ryan Woerz, son of Ronald and Becky Woerz, of Ardmore, Okla., is a February 2008 recipient of the Chickasaw Honor Club Outstanding Achievement Award in Golf.

Ryan Woerz

Ryan is a freshman at Ardmore High School and was nominated by business teacher Sandy Barnes.

"Ryan shows a genuine interest in his class work while assuming responsibility for the completions of assignments," said Ms. Barnes. "I enjoyed having him in class."

Ryan enjoys playing basketball, baseball and golf. He has competed in the Native American Junior Golf Tournament representing Team Chickasaw since 2006, receiving second- and third-place awards. He is also an active member of the First Baptist Church in Ardmore.

"I will continue to strive and maintain success in my academics during my high school years," said Ryan. "I plan to graduate from Ardmore High School with honors and pursue a career in meteorology."

Contributed by Brooke Tidwell, tribal media relations.

Program offers computers to citizens

To many citizens assisted by the Chickasaw Nation computer distribution program, they are not just receiving a new machine into their households; they are receiving a link to an easier life, better communication and self-improvement.

This service is designed to give Chickasaw citizens access to computers for personal, educational or business reasons.

"We've helped Chickasaws from age 9 to 90 be able to access the resources on the internet," said Dennis Underwood, program manager for the computer distribution program.

Uses for these computers range from online classes to keeping in touch with family and friends.

"We had one citizen who lived in a different state from his grandson and he received pictures via email everyday from his son," said Underwood. "His computer literally helped him watch his grandchild grow up."

The department separated from the computer literacy department last spring and moved operations to Sulphur, Okla. The service originally distributed refurbished computers from Chickasaw Nation offices. New computers are now provided to participants in the program.

For Fannae' Homer Shields, a hearing-impaired citizen from Dallas, Texas, the service has a huge effect on her everyday life, both personally and professionally.

She uses the computer she received in January in conjunction with a telephone communication service offered by Sprint Corporation. The service involves an operator who will talk for the hearing impaired person and then type what the other person is saying for the hearing-impaired person to read on their computer screen.

"Trying to understand someone on a phone is very difficult for me," Ms. Shields said. "The other person becomes put out by having to repeat everything three or four times."

She said that it was comforting having her laptop for communication in case of an emergency.

"If I should have car trouble and call for help, I would be able to understand the questions they were asking, just as if I were using a cell phone."

Ms. Shields also uses her laptop to email her son, who is stationed in Iraq.

Another service provided by this department is a $300 grant to go towards the purchase of a personal computer.

Underwood estimated that the service has provided computers for more than 1,300 citizens just in the last year and helped about 300 citizens purchase their own computers with the assistance grants. This service is available to at-large citizens; 83 computers have been distributed to out-of-state households since October 2007.

To be eligible for the computer distribution program, you must present a Chickasaw Nation citizenship card.

For more information, contact Dennis Underwood at the Sulphur Area Office by calling (580) 622-2888 or dennis.underwood@chickasaw.net.

Contributed by Carrie Bradshaw, tribal media relations.

Chickasaw Nation ensuring Native voices are heard

Tribe named 'Sovereign Nation of Year' by Native writers

Chickasaw Nation Arts and Humanities adminstrator Lona Barrick, center, accepts the "Sovereign Nation of the Year" award from Dr. Kimberly Roppolo, national director of Wordcraft Circle of Native Writers and Storytellers. Barrick and tribal storyteller Lorie Robins, left, accepted the award March 15 at Wordcraft's annual meeting in Lansing, Mich.

EAST LANSING, Mich. – A Native writers and storyteller organization lauded the Chickasaw Nation as "Sovereign Nation of the Year" during the group's national conference last month.

Wordcraft Circle of Native Writers and Storytellers honored the Chickasaw Nation for implementing tribal programs that reflect the writers and storytellers group's mission: to ensure the voices of Native writers and storytellers, past, present and future are heard throughout the world.

"We are overwhelmed at the steps the Chickasaw Nation has taken to ensure Native voices are heard," said Wordcraft national director Dr. Kimberly Roppolo.

The tribe was recognized by Wordcraft for its work in creating the Chickasaw Press and designating Linda Hogan tribal writer-in-residence.

Dr. Roppolo described the works of the Chickasaw Nation as "inspirational."

"The Chickasaw Nation is doing all of these wonderful things to make sure all those voices are heard," she said. "I am overwhelmed."

The tribe, she said, was setting a great example for other tribes across the country.

Wordcraft was founded in 1992. Its message is that Native voices are important to defining Native people of all ages. Through writing and storytelling, the organization believes, Native voices keep the traditions, culture and communities strong and vibrant.

The Chickasaw Press serves as an avenue for Native writers and storytellers to share their stories with Native people and the world. Two of the three books published by the Chickasaw Press to date have received extensive recognition.

Hogan, a Chickasaw, will soon join the Chickasaw Nation as the writer-in-residence with the tribal Division of Arts and Humanities. In this newly-created position, Hogan will be working on her own writing projects, as well as projects for the Chickasaw Nation. She will continue some of her regular speaking engagements and will serve as a presenter at the tribe's Clemente Humanities class, Chickasaw Summer Arts Academy, and writing workshops.

The "Sovereign Nation of the Year" award was formally conferred on the Chickasaw Nation during Wordcraft's national Native writer's conference, "Returning the Gift," conducted on the Michigan State University campus in East Lansing on Saturday, March 15.

Lona Barrick, tribal Arts and Humanities administrator, accepted the citation on the behalf of the Chickasaw Nation and Governor Bill Anoatubby. Chickasaw Nation traditional storyteller Lorie Robins also attended the event.

Contributed by Dana Hudspeth, tribal media relations.

Bedre using capacity to expand sales, enter new markets

Even though the factory which creates delicious Bedré Chocolate is nestled in the heart of the Great Plains, the sweet treat has a world-wide presence.

Shop at high-end department stores, Bedré is there. Check into a popular hotel in a far-flung destination, and find a Bedre chocolate treat on your pillow.

Bedre is owned by the Chickasaw Nation and located in Pauls Valley, Okla.

Bedré general manager Niclas Carlsson said over the past year, the company has landed some new accounts and created a new delicacy, the "twist."

The twist is a funnel-shaped corn chip covered in white chocolate, and boasts a unique flavor. It was introduced in mid-2007.

The only place the twist can be purchased with an additional drizzling of dark chocolate is Neiman-Marcus Department stores. The department store has an exclusive one-year contract with Bedré to sell the twist under its own store label.

"It was recently the store's number one seller of food products for three months, said Carlsson.

"It's been a big hit."

Corn chips covered in chocolate, produced by Bedré, can be purchased at Bloomingdale's under a private label. Bloomingdale's is a new account for the candy manufacturer.

This summer, small solid chocolate guitars will be provided to guests who check-in at 11 Hard Rock Hotels, located aross the country.

Carlsson said the new accounts and an overall increased sales effort had led to triple the number of sales in January and February 2008, as compared to the same time period last year.

"We've have also had a 30 percent increase in sales since August 2007," he said.

"Governor Anoatubby has done an excellent job trying to diversify into new business," Carlsson said.

Two shifts of employees, many of whom are Chickasaw, manufacture everything from melt-aways and clusters to candy bars from 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 p.m., five days a week.

Carlsson projects if the growth continues, a third shift will be added late this year.

Utilizing state-of-the-art equipment, the company can produce up to 35,000 chocolate bars a day in the 19,000 square-foot facility.

Four large tanks filled with hundreds of gallons of milk chocolate, dark chocolate, mint, and peanut butter line the wall in the factory. These tanks create a seemingly never-ending supply of product to use in the candy-making process.

Bedre employee Phyllis Johnson packages Watts Farms candy bars at the Bedre factory in Pauls Valley, Okla.

Enrobing machines, which resemble long stainless steel tunnels, cover everything from granola bars to fruitcake with milk or dark chocolate.

Bedré collaborates with several companies to cover products in its famous chocolate.

"Co-manufacturing is our number two market," Carlsson said.

At Christmas, Bedré also produces boxed chocolate for Oklahoma-based Braums.

Bedré is also the home of Watts Farms candy bars, which can be found in convenience and grocery stores throughout the country.

The chocolate used in creating the candy contains no paraffin or wax, meaning it has a shorter shelf life than other commercial chocolate candy – and better flavor.

"It is better tasting, but it has a lower melting point," Carlsson said.

The chocolate is shipped in refrigerated trucks from the factory to points all over the globe, including Canada, Asia and Europe.

"We have customers all over the world who order from us, thanks to the Internet," Carlsson said.

The plant operates with the Health Analyses and Critical Control Point (HACCP) certification, a standard in food processing that ensures strict policies and procedures are followed.

Work is now under way to secure an International Standard for Organization (ISO) 9001 certification, an international standard in food safety.

Carlsson said the ISO 9001 would help pave the way to more international businesses.

"We are looking to expand outside the States," he said.

This spring, new packaging will also be launched, creating a new look for Bedré.

Bedré was purchased by the Chickasaw Nation in 2000 and the Pauls Valley factory was completed in 2003. The company is the largest chocolate manufacturer in Oklahoma.

Tours of the facility, which is located off exit 70 (Airline Road) on I-35, are available. Call 1-800-367-5390 for more information, or visit www.bedrechocolates.com

Contributed by Dana Hudspeth, tribal media relations.

Youth and Family Services camp offers challenges, kinship

Camp Hayaka Unta introduces kids, families to outdoor skills

Michelle Cooke, left, comforts her daughter Kelly after she was frightened during a skeet shooting demonstration. The two ladies were participants in Camp Hayaka Unta, conducted March 7-9 at Camp Classen near Davis.

A weekend of tent camping in sub-freezing temperatures gave a group of Chickasaw youth and their parents a better appreciation of modern amenities.

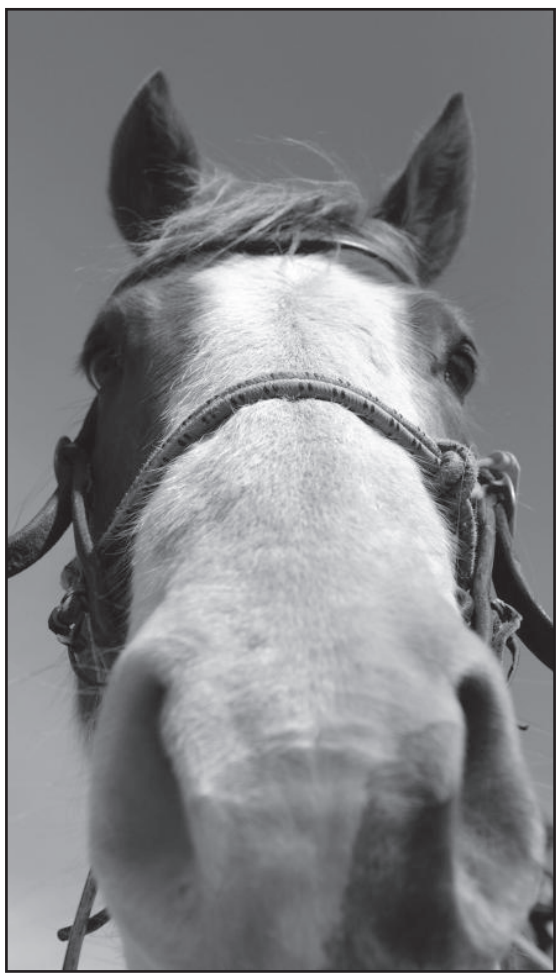
Forty-six youth and adults spent the weekend of March 7-9 at Spring Camp Hayaka Unta. The camp is sponsored by the Chickasaw Nation Division of Youth and Family Services and is offered in December and March at no charge to Chickasaw families. Proceeds from Chickasaw Nation businesses fund the camp.

The camp was conducted at Camp Classen in the heart of the Arbuckle Mountains in Murray County, Oklahoma.

Camp Hayaka Unta, which means "to stay in the wilderness," is designed to give both children and adults a chance to experience new challenges in a "no pressure" atmosphere.

True to the camp's objective, most campers tried many activities for the first time, from horseback riding to paddling a canoe. Gathering around a campfire for warmth as temperatures plunged to 16 degrees Friday night was a first for novice campers. Eating cobbler cooked in a Dutch oven was a more pleasant "first time" experience.

Although she was reluctant, seven-year-old Kelly Cooke rode a horse for the first time while at camp.



Campers had an opportunity to get up close and personal with the horses of Camp Classen during Camp Hayaka Unta.

After her ride she was all smiles and said "I was a little scared, but I hung on, and it was fun."

Kelly attended the camp with her mother, Michelle.

The two ladies spent their time making dream catchers and hiking around the lake. They sat in a teepee and watched Glen Leming create a bow, in addition to all the other activities.

"This was my first Camp Hayaka Unta, and I must say that despite the bitterly cold temperatures, it was an outstanding adventure for my daughter and me," Mrs. Cook said. "The weekend away from the rest of the family provided a unique bonding experience that we won't soon forget.

"Both of us grew closer in that tent, not because we needed to stay warm, but because we shared special memories just between us that are irreplaceable."

Some campers spent their time playing stickball, while others tried their archery and firearms skills during the camp. Most campers also tried their hands at climbing the rock wall and the enjoying the harness swing.

"We had a lot of campers get out of their comfort zone and try new activities," said Barry Needham, director of tribal camps and recreation.

Jackson Wallace, an Ardmore, Okla., fifth grader, and his younger brother Sam both tried the harness swing.

"It was fun," said Jackson, "but kind of scary on the way down."

Jackson, who also attended the camp in December 2006, said the swing and horseback riding were his favorite parts of the camp.

The weekend culminated Sunday with a hike up Warren Mountain, where many spotted deer and wild turkeys.

"Thank you to all the wonderful staff at the Chickasaw Nation Youth Services," Mrs. Cook.

Contributed by Dana Hudspeth, tribal media relations.

Kyle Smith, front of canoe, Cedar Easterling and Blake Smith paddle a canoe.

CSAA

Chickasaw Summer Arts Academy

WHEN:
Monday, July 14th - Friday, July 25th

WHAT:
The Chickasaw Summer Arts Academy (CSAA) offers a unique opportunity for Chickasaw students, between the ages of eight and 19, to evaluate and develop their creative potential through formal training in visual arts, acting, writing, video production, music and dance.

WHERE:
Students will attend classes at East Central University in Ada, Okla.

HOW:
Attend one of the auditions.

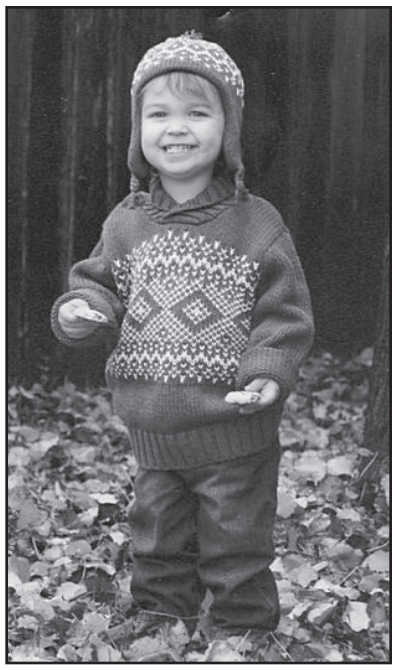
AUDITIONS:
April 26, 2008
9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
University of Central Oklahoma (UCO)
Edmond, Oklahoma

May 3, 2008
9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
East Central University (ECU)
Ada, Oklahoma

Students MUST attend an audition to be eligible for acceptance into the academy.

QUESTIONS:
Please contact the Chickasaw Nation Division of Arts & Humanities at 580-272-5520, or email Laura Stewart at laura.stewart@chickasaw.net, or Debra Bailey at debra.bailey@chickasaw.net.

Kaden Rayce Oliphant



Kaden Rayce Oliphant is the son of Ashlee Palmer and the grandson of Anna Sue Palmer.

Kaden was born December 7, 2005 at the Carl Albert Indian Health Facility. He is now 2 years and 3 months old. He goes to the Total Learning Center Day Care everyday while his mom, Ashlee Palmer goes to work at the Pontotoc County Area Youth and Family Services of the Chickasaw Nation.

Kaden is the cutest, smartest, sweetest and happiest little boy I have ever seen. When he calls me "MiMi" and wraps his little arms and legs around me, I just melt. He also has blues eyes, just like me.

He is the only grandchild I have at this time, so that makes him my TOTAL PRIDE AND JOY. Until he was born I did not know how you could love anyone as much as your own children. Now I know how very SPECIAL a grandson can be in your life!

Benjamin Lee Gold and Christopher Garrett Morgan

Benjamin Lee Gold, 6, is the son of Billy Jack Gold and Starla Gold. He is the grandson of Bill and Vicky Gold, Gwenda and Harold DePasse and Donna and John Linton.

Christopher Garrett Morgan, 3, is the son of Scott and Melissa Morgan. He is the grandson of Vicky and Bill Gold, Shelby and Gayle Morgan and Buddy Tartsah. He is the nephew to Rachael and Derek Collins, Marcus Tartsah and Stacy and Danny Cates.

Ben and Garrett are our pride and joy because they bring a lot of laughter and love to our family. They are always happy when they get to spend an afternoon together and enjoy playing on Papa's tractor, dressing as Batman or just playing as bull riders.

We love you Ben and Garrett!

Carter Norvell

Carter Norvell is the son of Marc and Dana Norvell. He is the grandson of Elizabeth Norvell and the late Glynn Norvell of Purcell, Okla., and Kyle and Jeanette Haley of Chandler, Okla.

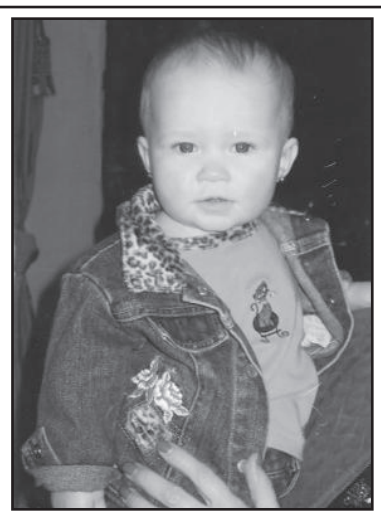
Carter is our pride and joy for so many reasons. Not a day goes by that we don't laugh at the funny things he says. Whether we are playing Star Wars, video games or bouncy ball outside, he really has a passion for all that he does. In addition, he is such a compassionate and caring four year old! We love him so much and feel blessed to be a part of his wonderful little life.

Jaden Young

Jaden Young is the son of Wendy Abell and the grandson of Carla Geeo. He is the great grandson of Betty Anderson and the great-great grandson of the late Florence Powell Carriker and the descendent of original enrollee Ellen Jane Powell.

He is putting forth an extreme effort to be a good student. He enjoys riding his bike and eating hot fudge sundaes and playing with his dog "Rocco."

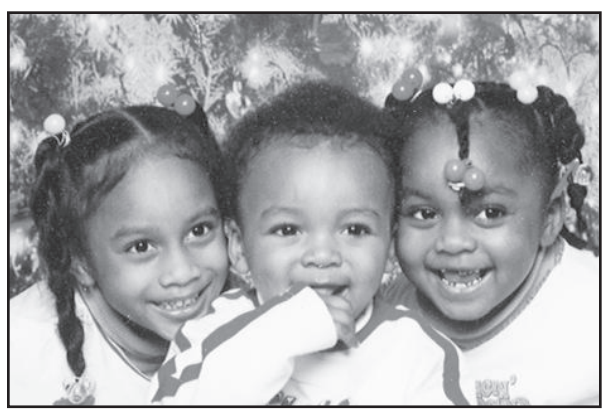
Maggie Caldwell



Maggie Caldwell, 1, is the daughter of Brien and Leslie Caldwell. She is the granddaughter of Al and Belinda Caldwell.

She is our first grandchild. That is why we are selling our house to be next to her. There is nothing like a grandchild.

JaCylia, Joseph Jr. and Joicelinn Johnson



JaCylia, Joicelinn and Joseph Jr. Johnson are the children of Celia and Joseph Sr. Johnson. They are the grandchildren of Terry and Cecile McGee and Vial and Claudia Johnson.

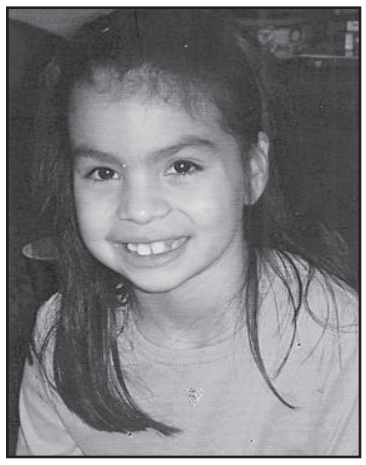
These three are our pride and joy because they give us something to look forward to everyday. All of them are smart and talented. They are our little Superstars!

Kelsey Morgan

Kelsey "Tuff" Morgan is the daughter of Matthew and Candessa Morgan. She is the granddaughter of Doyle and Marilyn Morgan and Faye Tehee.

She is smart, reserved, funny, sensitive, caring, multi-talented and she likes to pester.

Jolie Morgan



Jolie Morgan is the daughter of Matthew and Candessa Morgan. She is the granddaughter of Doyle and Marilyn Morgan and Faye Tehee.

She is smart, creative, well behaved, competitive, sweet and good at playing tricks.

Michelle Castellanos

Michelle Castellanos is the granddaughter of Allen and Terri Lozano.

The best part of life is having Michelle as a granddaughter. She's loving, fun, smart and caring, and very happy! She's a beautiful 4-year-old princess.

Brittney Nicole Conway

Brittney Nicole Conway, 4, is the daughter of Jim and Linda Conway. She is the granddaughter of Don and Peggy Prather.

She is my pride and joy because: I have a very special angel of whom I'm awfully fond; of course it is my sweet grandchild, with whom I share this bond. The time we spend is valuable, for, as grandparents know, grandchildren never stay the same. They change each day and grow, and so I remember to enjoy these golden days.

Fill them all with laughter, pride and joy, love, warmth and praise, for in those little sparkling eyes, I see the future shine; and in my heart I know that there's no grandchild quite like mine.

That is why you are our pride and joy!

We love you Brittney,

Grandma Peggy and Grandpa Don

Lucas Matthew Sherrer

Lucas Matthew Sherrer is the son of Ashlee Sherrer. He is the grandson of Brent and Janet Tevebaugh and the great-grandson of Jim and Jean Amerson.

Lucas keeps us entertained with his singing, dancing and drama. He brings laughter to our lives daily.

Keaton Matthew Welton Tevebaugh

Keaton Matthew Welton Tevebaugh is the son of Zack and Kacie Tevebaugh. He is the grandson of Brent and Janet Tevebaugh and the great grandson of Jim and Jean Amerson.

Keaton is a precious gift from God. He is such a joy and his smile lights up our world.

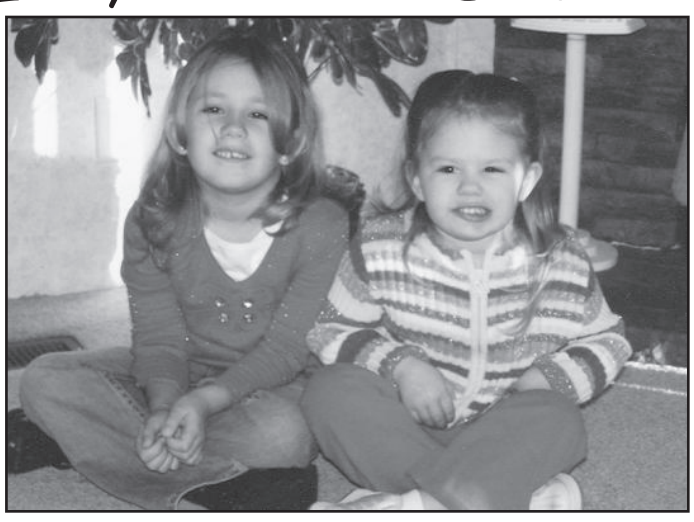
Abbie Elise Notgrass

Abbie Elise Notgrass, 1, is the daughter of Blake and Allison Notgrass and the granddaughter of Clyde and Wanda Ashley.

I always looked forward to having a daughter. After waiting 47 years, my little bundle was born.

My granddaughter Abbie Elise Notgrass is the answer to my prayers.

Emily and Natalie Sullivan



Emily and Natalie Sullivan are the daughters of Tim and Stephanie Sullivan.

They are precious little girls with wonderful personalities. They love to laugh and play with their cousins and friends, and enjoy visiting family.

Tyreke Scott

Tyreke Scott is the son of Sharita Taylor.

I didn't think that I could have kids and I had a hard time having him; everyday that I look at him I know how much he loves me and I would do anything to make him happy.

Adelya, 13, Victoria, 11, and Olivya, 7, are the daughters of Kelly Sumpter (Lishtubby). They are the granddaughters of Ted (Lishtubby) Williams.

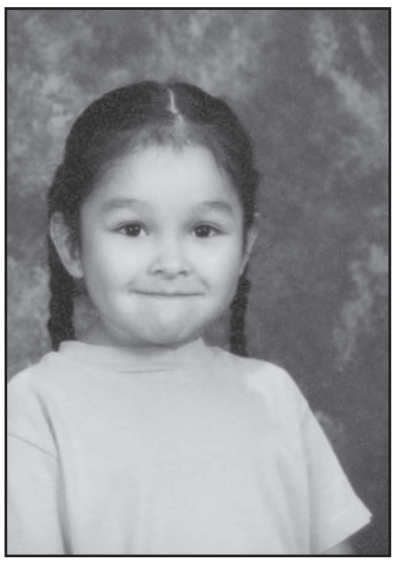
I am a single mom of three girls (two which are of special needs). These girls have inspired me to want to go back to school and to better our lives. I work full-time and I drive them daily to three different schools, two girls have three therapists they see two times each week and they can have up to five doctor appointments a month. It's very tough doing it alone with no one to help but through the Creator and my children I know I can do all things.

These three little girls are my pride and joy and the reason I live.

Adelya Lishtubby-Woo

Victoria Lishtubby-Woo

Olivya Lishtubby-Woo



Deak Aaron Bridgman

Deak Aaron Bridgman, 3 months, is the son of Aaron and Misty Bridgman. He is the grandson of Michael and Susan Miller.

Deak is our pride and joy because he is our first grandson (soon to be joined by our second one.) He makes us laugh everyday. He's our, "Little Buddy!"

Cheyanne Rose Waller

Cheyanne Rose Waller, 2, is the daughter of Celia Underwood and John Waller. She is the granddaughter of Richard and Tammy Davis, the great-granddaughter of Lillian and the late Andrew (Bud) Underwood. She is the niece of Cassidy Davis, Valorie Underwood, Linda Underwood, Mary Wisdom, Dexter Underwood, Daryl Underwood and Larry Wisdom.

When Cheyanne was born I knew she would be special and every time she is around she brings joy to my life. I love you baby girl.

Landon Shane Hedrick

Landon Shane Hedrick, 17, is the son of LaDana and Shane Hedrick, of Yukon, Okla. He is the grandson of Ronnie and Kathy Hall, of El Reno, Okla., and Donna Novey, of Okarche, Okla. He is the great grandson of Pauline and the late David "Shorty" Williams, of El Reno, Okla., and Nora and the late Buck Buckner, of Yukon, Okla.

Landon is our pride and joy because he has always had a humble personality.

When he was a little boy, he would play and entertain himself.

He has loved and served the Lord ever since birth.

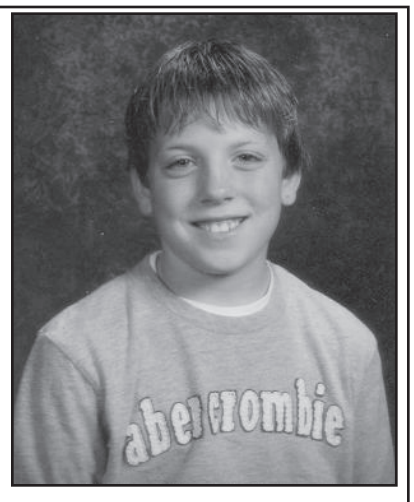
He is very loving and kind to everyone.

Landon has always enjoyed baseball and basketball. He started playing baseball at the age of four.

Landon is a "Blessing" and we are very proud of him.

He is proud to be a Chickasaw.

Michael Dylan Hedrick



Michael Dylan Hedrick, 14, is the son of LaDana and Shane Hedrick, of Yukon, Okla. He is the grandson of Ronnie and Kathy Hall, of El Reno, Okla., and Donna Novey, of Okarche, Okla. He is the great grandson of Pauline and the late David "Shorty" Williams, of El Reno, Okla., and Nora and the late Buck Buckner, of Yukon, Okla.

Dylan is our pride and joy because he is truly a miracle baby.

He loves and serves the Lord.

As a little boy, he always wanted to help you, with whatever you were doing.

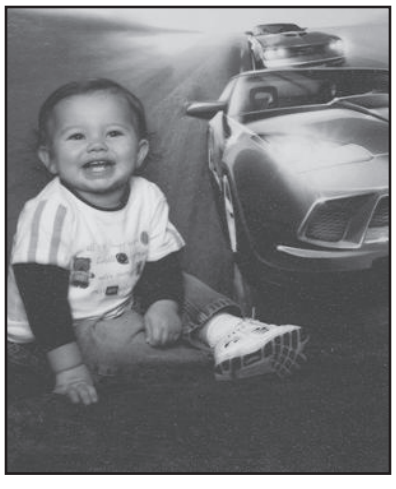
He always wanted to work, and make own money so he could buy gifts for all at Christmas.

He has loved playing baseball and basketball since the age of four, he plays for his school.

Dylan is a blessing, and we are very proud of him.

He is proud to be a Chickasaw.

Daniel Cole Licea



Daniel Cole Licea is the son of Joce Licea and Karri Fisher. He is the grandson of Karla Windy Boy, of Stonewall, Okla., Donny and Mary Fisher, of Oklahoma City, and Delfino and Lyta Licea, of Rockwall, Texas.

Daniel is such a precious baby. He brings much joy into our lives and he always has a smile for everybody. We love to watch him learn and grow everyday. He is a gift from God and we are truly blessed.

We love you Daniel,

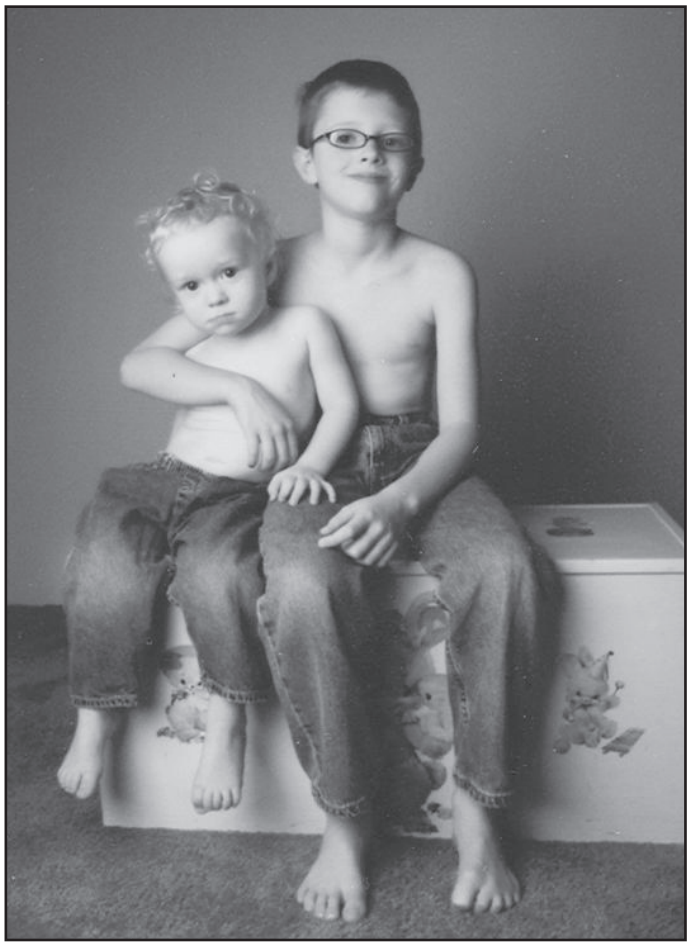
Mama and Daddy

Preston Brown and Rowdy Parks

Preston Brown, 11, and Rowdy Parks, 6 months, are the sons of Randy and Jennifer Parks.

They are our pride and joy because they are blessings from God. They bring smiles to our faces everyday! We love watching Preston play basketball every Saturday and enjoy watching him grow up. It's such a joy watching Rowdy change daily, he is such a sweetheart!

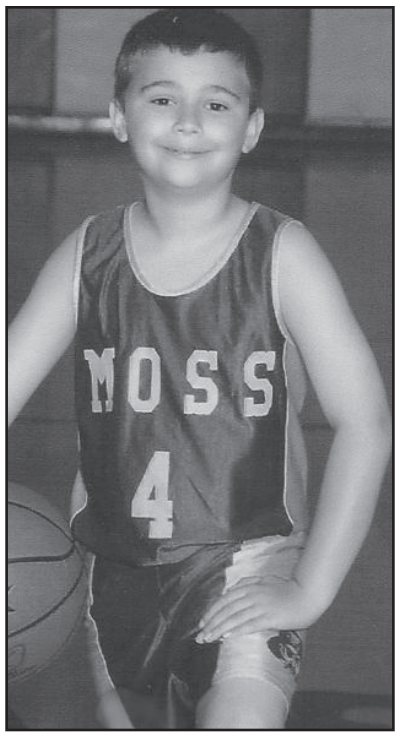
Will and Luke Horning



Will Horning, 8, and Luke Horning, 2, are the sons of Dawn Horning, of Denison, Texas., and are the grandsons of Carole and Howard Hughes, of Madill, Okla.

Life is not always perfect, even when you are a grandparent. But when you see their smiles and hear their sweet voices call out "Mimi" and "Paw" the world becomes a better place. God knew what he was doing by saving the best for last – Grandsons!

Matt Stafford



Matt Stafford is the son of David and Jeri Beth Stafford.

Matt excels at several sports and always gives 100%. We are very proud of how kind-hearted and giving Matt is.

Lauren Stafford

Lauren Stafford is the daughter of David and Jeri Beth Stafford.

She always has a positive attitude and does her best. We are very proud of the young lady she has become.

Ross Clark, Zach Mulanax and Derek Clark

Ross Clark, Zach Mulanax and Derek Clark are the grandsons of Harwood and Ida Suggs.

This was an annual ritual for the three cousins; trotting off for fireworks to the South Canadian River on the Fourth of July. Zach died this year at 23 years old. These three together was always a joy!

Samantha Gwyndolyn Allen

Samantha Gwyndolyn Allen, 13, is the daughter of Jimmy and Sandra Houston and the great grandchild of Walter and Bessie Capes.

She makes me proud of the person she has become. She likes people and she is always doing things for others. She is fun to be around and makes life an adventure and helps me to see life is simple and not too difficult to handle.

Samantha has taught me what love really is, she makes my heart so happy and I am thankful to be her mother.

She likes to skate, read, ride her 4-wheeler, spend time with her friends and family. She spends a lot of time with her great grandparents and has good family values and morals. She is always willing to grow and learn more about life, she is very creative.

Proud Mother

Delisa

Jaclyn

Christopher

Haylee and Chandler

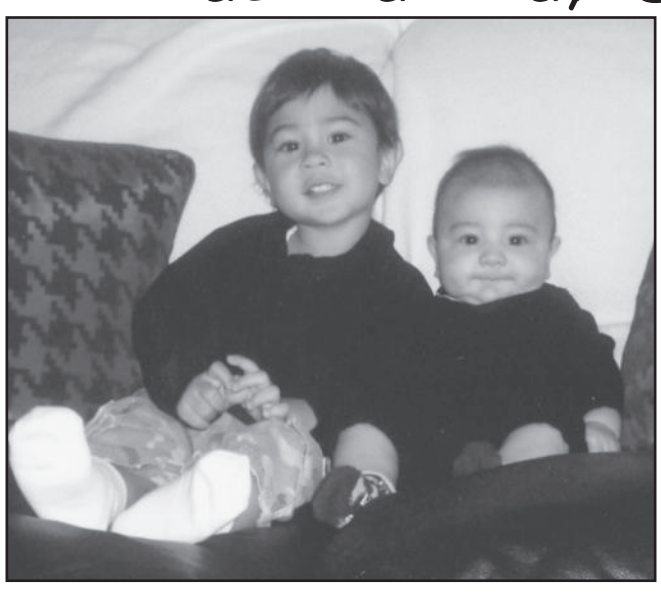
I am the mother of Delisa, Christopher and Jaclyn and the grandmother of Haylee and Chandler.

These five people are my pride and joy because they make my life complete.

They have given me love, happiness and a non-replaceable period in my lifetime that I will cherish forever. I have truly been blessed by their presence in my life and someday when I get old I will only have to look at all the wonderful things these five people have given me and be able to smile. Someday they to will know what it is like to have someone that's important in their life.

Someone once said it is at the later years of a person's life that they realize how important their decisions where at the beginning of their life. I know that these five people were the best thing that has ever happened to me.

Jacob and Jayden Helm



Jacob and Jayden Helm are the grandson of Karen Helm-Colbert and Tony Helm.

Their smiles and laughter have captured my heart. The joy and love I feel is sometimes overwhelming. I treasure every moment I have with them. Have you ever loved someone so much that if made you cry? To my grandbabies I say, "Grandma loves you with all her heart."

Jaylee and Jordan Willis

Jaylee and Jordan Willis are the children of Jeff and Rhonda Willis. They are the grandchildren of Mark and Debbie Willis and Rodney and Sherry Haynes.

They keep us young and remind us of their parents when they were children. They keep us active. They are our pride and joy.

We love you.

Papa and Grandma

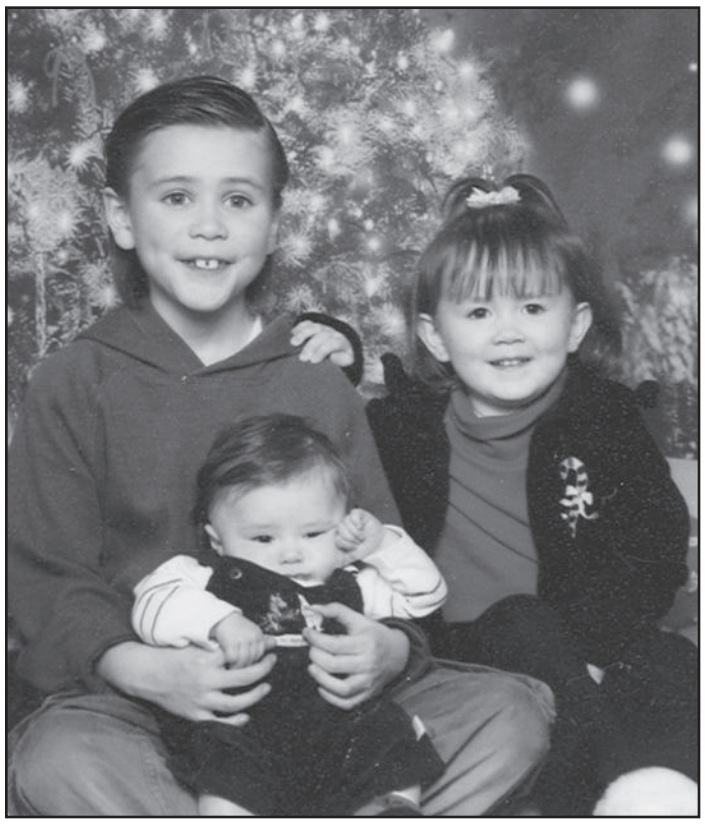
Leighanne and Ethan Bonilla

Leighanne and Ethan Bonilla are the children of Marlon and Lindsay Bonilla. They are the grandchildren of Tony and Nancy Ross and the great-grandchildren of John and Vinita Pruett. They are the great-great-grandchildren of original enrollee Tishie McKinney.

Watching them grow and experience life gives us joy and pleasure and keeps us young at heart!

Tony and Nancy Ross

Jordyn Perry, Haylee Jenson and Harley Jenson



Jordyn, 7, Hayllee, 3, and Harley, 7 months, are the children of Tishina (Perry) and Harold Jenson's PRIDE and grandparents Patrick and Debra Perry's JOY, all of Reno. They are very special kids and loved by all.

Jordyn (Little Bear) has such an outgoing and magnetic personality that people are naturally drawn to him. He is in 2nd grade and loves monster trucks, playing baseball, riding his bike and quad, and helping out with his younger siblings.

Hayllee (Whispering Dove) adores her big brother and rarely leaves his side. She tries to do everything he does. She began talking at 12 months and hasn't stopped. She makes us stop and ask, "Hey, Who's the boss?"

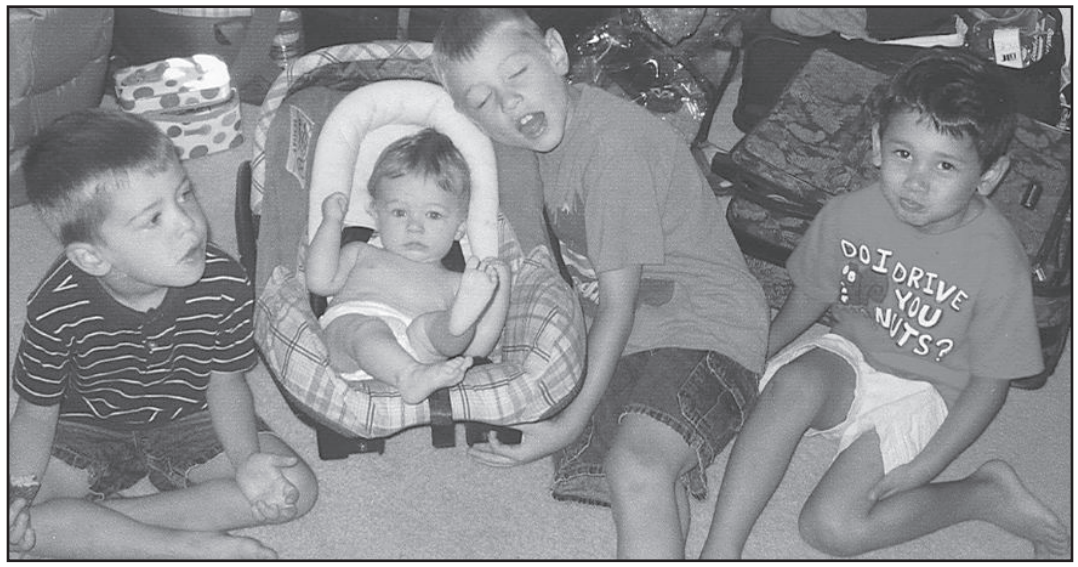
Baby Harley (Little Big Man) born at home a month premature, has never let that stop him from doing and getting whatever he wants, whenever he wants it. Watching him grow so fast, has led us to believe that although he may be the youngest he will turn out to be our toughest.

Together they make up our whole world, brighten our days with their laughter, and remind us to thank the Great Spirit each and everyday for our wonderful, three little blessings!

All our love,

Grandma and Grandpa

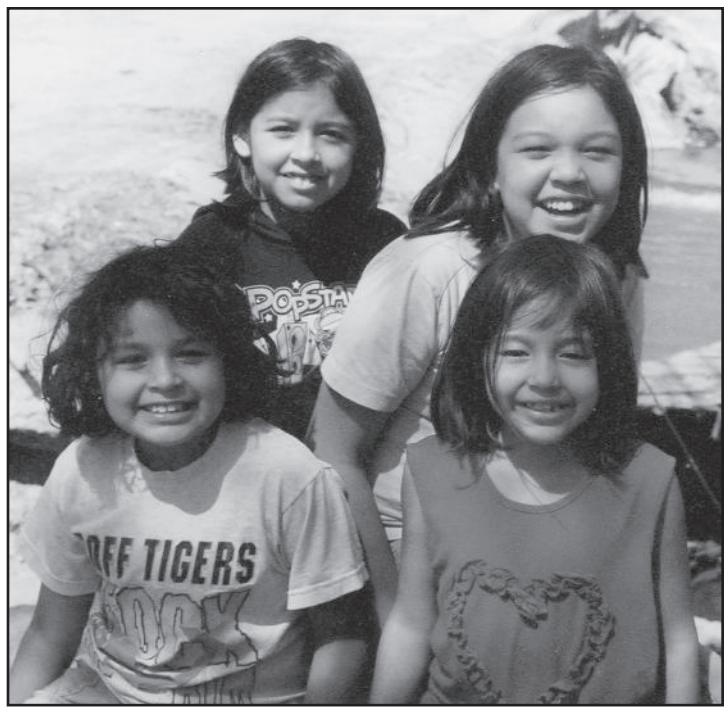
Caleb Lutton, Chase Lutton, Scott Lutton and David Michael Day



Caleb Lutton, 4, Chase Lutton, 3 months, Scott Lutton, 8 and David Micheal Day, 4 are the grandchildren of John and Marlane Dogdion.

They fill our life with joy just to watch them as they grow and learn in different ways.

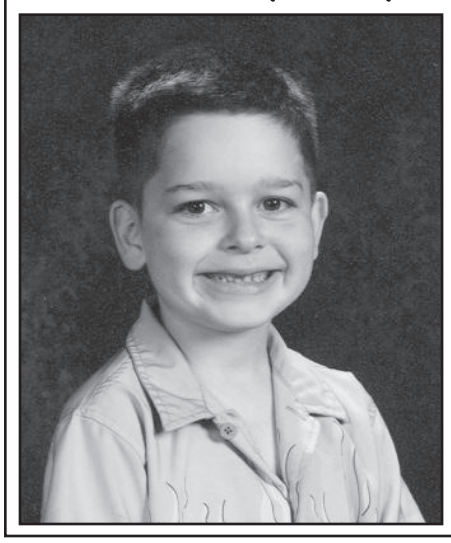
Autumn Underwood, Nikki Weems, Savannah Weems and LuLu Weems



Autumn Underwood, 13, Nikki Weems, 11, Savannah Weems, 9, and LuLu Weems, 8, are the daughters of Loraine and Michael Weems. They are the granddaughters of Tom and Marval Hamilton, Franklin Delano "Buck" Weems and Ann Hammond.

These girls are our pride and joy because they fill our lives with laughter and love. Each day we thank God that he has blessed our lives with four beautify girls, who make our lives worth living. We would be lost without their smiles. They enrich lives each and everyday.

Kody Layne Wilson



Kody Layne Wilson, 9, is the son of Rollans William Wilson and the grandson of LuAnne (Grandfield) Swaim and Ron and Darlene Wilson. He is the great-grandson of the late Barbara Ione (Worthington) and Richard Leroy Grandfield, his late great-great grandparents were Edward Paul Worthington and Ann Viola Burris.

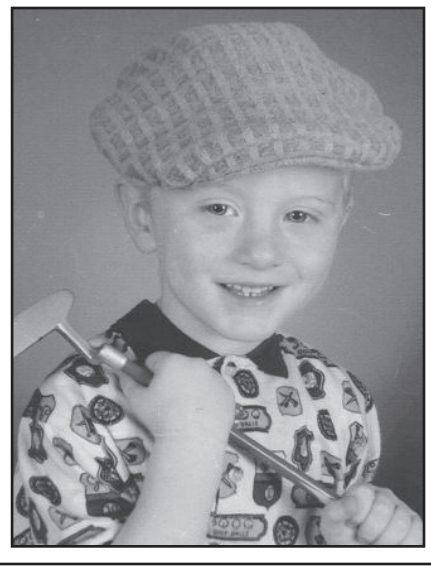
Kody we all love you so much. You mean the world to us!

Caden James Bristow

Caden James Bristow, 5, is the son of Rachel Rawlins and Bobby Bristow. He is the grandson of Bobbie Adams and Jim Ollis.

Caden is so smart and wants to play golf like Tiger Woods and work on cars like his Grumps. Caden lives in Lewisville, Texas, but wants to live in Border, Texas with his Gran and Grumps and his daddy and mom.

Caden s a good boy and is loved by many and the pride and joy of all of us.



Taylor Godwin, Jazmyn Mariza Stick and Jaden Rae Miller

Taylor Godwin, Jazmyn Mariza Stick and Jaden Rae Miller are the daughters of Steven and Dana Stick Godwin. They are the granddaughters of Linda Stick, Jeff and Paula Farrell and Cecil Ray and Luicille Miller.

These children are our pride and joy because they are each a miracle in their own special way. All three entered the world by the grace of God.

They are all good kids. They are good in school and good at home. We are grateful and blessed for having them in our lives.

We are so proud of you girls.

Love,

Mom and Dad

Emma Nicole Pittser

Emma Nicole Pittser is the daughter of Bill and Candy Pittser and the granddaughter of Donna Pittser and the late Billie Pittser.

My granddaughter is my pride and joy. She has truly been a precious gift from God. She was born 2 months after my youngest son passed away, then my husband passed away in September 2006. I don't know how I would have made it through the past 3 years without her.

Emma likes playing outside, and she loves the "Boomer Sooners." She is such a joy to be with and I think God everyday for giving her to us.

Donna Pittser

Kason Cade Flowers

Kason Cade Flowers is the great-great-grandson of Faye Henderson and the great-great-great-grandson of original enrollee Eastman Burris.

Kason is a very special great-great-grandson.

Charles, Ryan and Nathan Evans

Ryan, 6, Nathan 1, Charles, 7, are the sons of Tamera and Mark Evans. They are the grandsons of LuAnne Grandfield, Thomas Swaim and Ron and Darlene Wilson, the great- grandsons of the late Barbara Ione (Worthington) and Richard Leroy Grandfield. They are the great-great-grandsons of the late Edward Paul Worthington and Anne Viola Burris.

These three boys are our pride and joy. They make every day brighter. We love them so much!

Macey, Summer, Rebekah, Meredith, Landon, Elijah, Davin and Ethan Eck

Macey, Summer, Rebekah, Meredith, Landon, Elijah, Davin and Ethan are the grandchildren of Alan and Martha Eck.

My husband and I are very proud of our eight little Chickasaw grandchildren. We have three great sons who have blessed us with these eight little Ecks.

They are all special to us, the barefoot ones, the ones with shoes that are too big and the one with shoes on the wrong feet, we were just lucky to get them all still at the same time to make a picture.

Emrie Faith Williams

Emrie Faith Williams is the daughter of Justin Williams and Jennifer Mendes. She is the granddaughter of James and Bonnie Williams and Karen Hopkins.

January 21, 2008 we became proud parents to Emrie Faith Williams. She weighed 7 lbs. 12 oz. and was 19 ½ inches long.

Nothing can change a soul more than the gift of a child. She has become our inspiration to be good parents. Her smile, her laughs and even her cry brings tears to our eyes.

To think we have been given this little life to raise and look after. She truly is our little pride and joy. She makes all the problems in this world worthwhile. I think we both can agree that we have been blessed with our little Princess Emrie.

We look forward to the many years of memories our family will make together.

Our first grandbaby; this precious little bundle of joy. She is the most wonderful thing that our family could ever ask for. Just to see the look in her mommy and daddy's eyes when they look at her and talk to her is priceless. She will never want for love; she is a true blessing to our family.

Gramma and Papa

My beautiful niece, little baby Emrie. She is the most amazing little person; I can't believe that she is finally here. I couldn't wait to meet her and now that she is here all I want to do is spend time with her.

I love you baby Emrie.

Aunt K.K.

Neissah Holmes and Montreal Burrell

Montreal Burrell, 7, and Neissah Holmes, 19 months, are the children of Terra Burrell and the grandchildren of Cecile McGee and Vivian and Terry McGee Sr.

Montreal and Neissah are my pride and joy because they motivate me to be the best person I can be, and have made me realize the love God has for us as his children. Just to see them smile or hear them laugh can make me forget all my worries.

I thank God for blessing and trusting me with two precious little angels.

Kristin and Desiree Littlefield

Kristin and Desiree Littlefield are the children of Jason and Dondrea Littlefield.

These children are our pride and joy because they have brought so much love into our lives. They have taught us how important the little things that happen everyday are and that we should enjoy them.

Kristin carries a little piece of sunshine with her wherever she goes. She shares it with everyone she meets.

Desiree is known to bring a smile to your face when you least expect it. That usually happens when you needs one the most.

We are very blessed to have these girls.

We love them very much.

Alyssa Farney

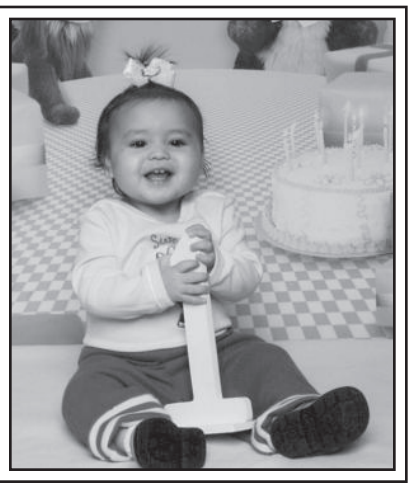
Alyssa Farney is the daughter of Ann Kemp Courtney and James Allen Courtney and Robert Farney. She is the granddaughter of Charles and Karen Kemp.

Alyssa is our pride and joy, not only because we love her, but also for the accomplishments she is achieving.

She is finishing 8th grade at Memorial Middle School in Joplin, Missouri with a 4.0 GPA and she was recently inducted into the National Junior Honor Society. She plays cello in the middle school orchestra and is also in the All School Orchestra. She is interested in sports and is a member of the Memorial Middle School basketball team. She was selected to be on the 08-09 dance team during the tryouts last month. At home, her constant companion is Jenny, a black Lab.

An 8th Generation Chickasaw, Alyssa's great grandparents are the late Raymond Herrell and Mamie Hughes Kemp. Other family lines are Cravatt, Alexander, Colbert and Perry.

Lois June Gomez



Lois June Gomez is the daughter of Lacy and Jaime Gomez.

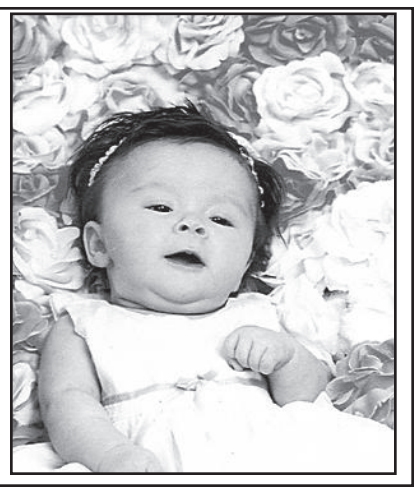
She is my first baby girl. She means the world to me. She puts a smile on my face. She is so beautiful; she is one of the apples of my eyes.

She came to us as a blessing from God! We thank the Lord for her. She is named after her late grandma.

We want to world to see our little Indian Princess Lois June Gomez.

We are very proud.

Savannah Marie Leiting



Savannah Marie Leiting is the daughter of Leslie Zorn and Travis Leiting. She is the granddaughter of Mark Fillmore and Cathy Zorn.

She is mine and Mark's legacy and a very happy and loveable joy!

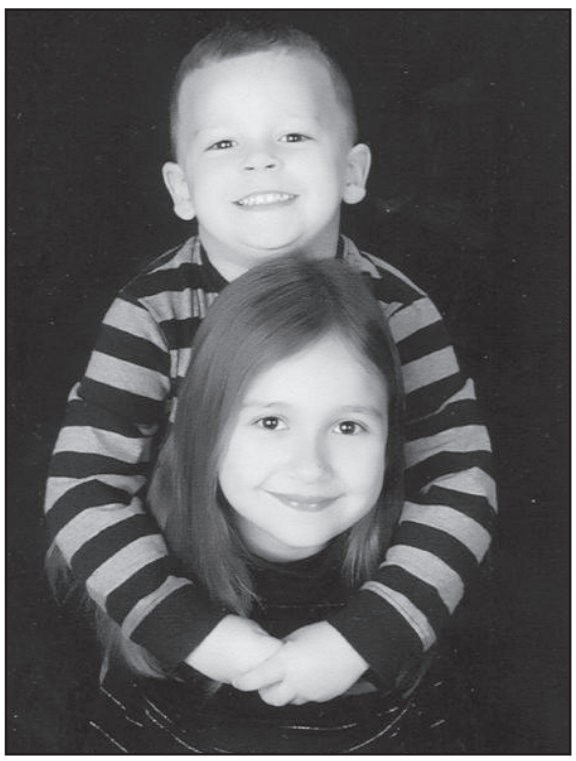
Marlee Erwin

Marlee Erwin is the daughter of Ginger and Craig Edmondson and Wade Erwin, all of Durant, Okla. She is the granddaughter of Sonny and Maxine Neely of Milburn, Okla., and Bobby and Maxine Erwin, of Kingston, Okla.

Marlee attends Tishomingo Middle School and is a Chickasaw honor roll and perfect attendance student. She is active in basketball, choir and Calvary Baptist Church Youth.

Congratulations to Marlee on her recent superior solo rating received at East Central University. Marlee loves to watch movies, play basketball, sing, dance and be with her friends. She is our pride and joy because she loves life and reflects that on all her friends and family with her smiles and hugs.

Anah and James Eichman



Anah and James Eichman are the children of Kevin and Carla Eichman. They are the grandchildren of Doug and Pat Eichman and Carl and Joanne Cook, and the great grandchildren of Joe and Bernice Gabehart.

Anah and James simply light up our lives!

Lindsay Marie Grisham

Lindsay Marie Grisham is the daughter of Don and Kristina Grisham. She is the granddaughter of Myles and Sandy Homer, of Ardmore, Okla., great-granddaughter of Myles and Juanita Homer and Nick and Lillian Fowler.

Lindsey is 17 years old and is a junior honor student.

She is on the high school swim team, high school basketball manager and active in church.

She completed the Little Rock Marathon, March 2, 2008 for the second time.

She is a lifeguard and we are very proud of all of her accomplishments.

Sydney Elizabeth Grisham

Sydney Elizabeth Grisham is the daughter of Don and Kristina Grisham. She is the granddaughter of Myles and Sandy Homer, of Ardmore, Okla., great-granddaughter of Myles and Juanita Homer and Nick and Lillian Fowler.

Sydney is in the 6th grade and an honor student. She plays on the Cabot Jr. Lady Panthers traveling basketball team that her dad coaches.

She was crowned Queen of the Lonoke Country 6th grade Cotillion on March 1, 2008.

She is also active in her church youth group.

We are very proud of her.

Allie Hope Grisham

Allie Hope Grisham is the daughter of Don and Kristina Grisham. She is the granddaughter of Myles and Sandy Homer, of Ardmore, Okla., great-granddaughter of Myles and Juanita Homer and Nick and Lillian Fowler.

Allie is in the 2nd grade at Magress Creek Elementary. Allie played basketball for the Lil Ladybacks and was the high scorer for her team with 40 points for the season. Her dad coached her team.

Allie is bright, happy and a joy to be around.

We are proud of her.

Jordan Lucas Bier

Jordan Lucas Bier is the son of Andrew Bier and Bonnie Biddlecome. He is the grandson of Jim and Jean Bier; Alice Morgan, Don Biddlecome and June Timmons.

This child is my pride and joy because he is my first great-grandchild and a joy to be around. He is the typical 2-year-old getting into everything, curious and busy all the time.

Jordan was born January 25, 2006. He was born 128 years and one day after his great-great-great-grandfather, Nathanial Thomas Brown, who was born January 24, 1878 in Indian Territory.

Kaya Ann Marie Duncan

Kaya Ann Marie Duncan is the daughter of Shannon and Tracy Duncan. She is the granddaughter of Phil and Geneva "Gamble" Stapler.

Kaya is 8 years old and in the second grade, doing third grade work.

She plays the keyboard and learning how to play the guitar. She played on the Hoopin Horses basketball team and they did not lose a game.

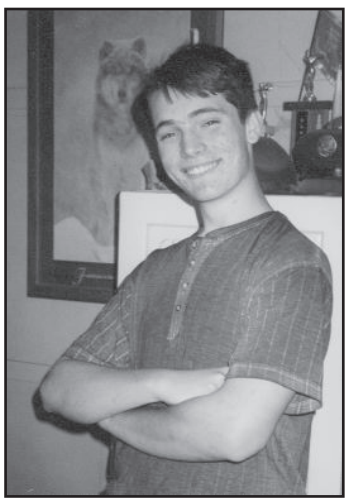
Kaya we are so proud of you.

JerrisDee and Chelsea D. Egge

JerrisDee Egge, 17, is our first grandchild. She a junior at Hemet High School.

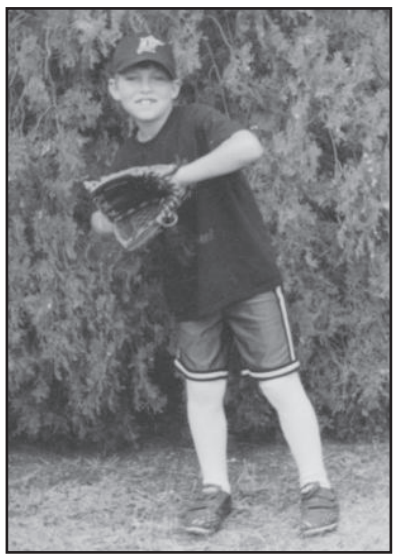
Chelsea D. Egge, 13, always has a smile or laugh for you.

Marshall Egge-Ogas



Marshall Egge-Ogas, 15, is our oldest grandson and a joy to all.

Isaac Egge-Ogas



Isaac Egge-Ogas, 8 ½, loves baseball at which he is a natural.

Abigail Egge-Ogas

Abigail Egge-Ogas, 7, is learning ballet. She is a gift to all and loves everybody.

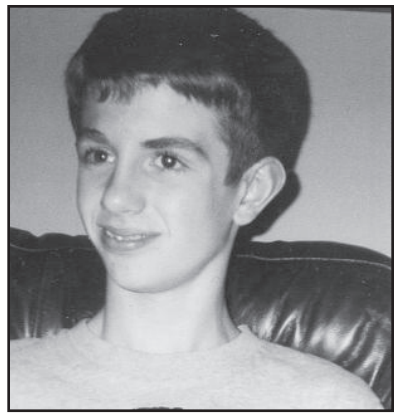
Sophia Egge-Ogas

Sophia Egge-Ogas, 4, is a delight to all.

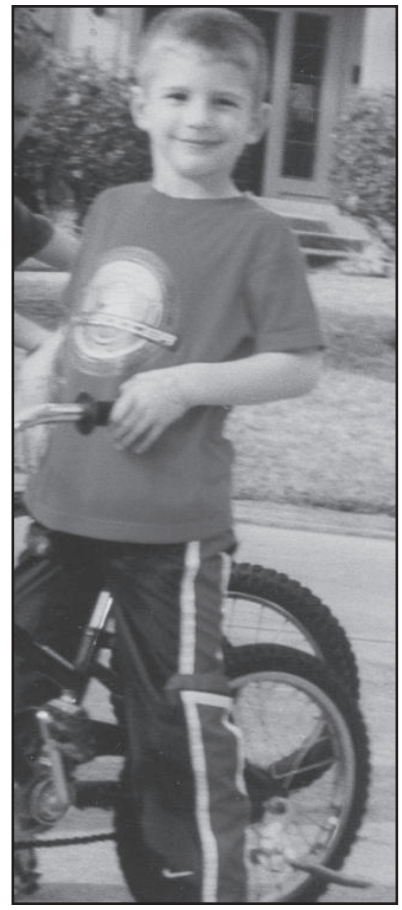
Everybody's grandkids are special and ours are as well!

Our six are direct descendents of my grandfather, Walter Jack, original enrollee.

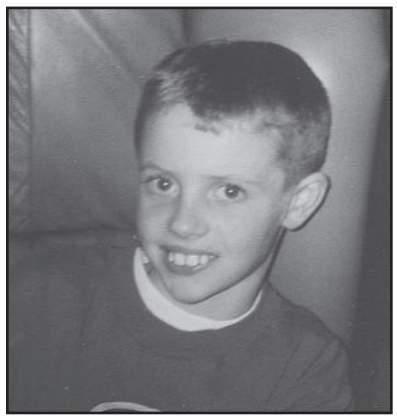
Price Atteberry



Jack Atteberry



Matthew Atteberry



Price, Matthew and Jack Atteberry are the sons of Robert and Dana Atteberry.

These three young brothers represent the fourth generation of Chickasaw descendent through their great-great-grandmother Winnie L. Blocker-Neighbors, an original enrollee.

Price, 13, is active in basketball and football. Matthew, 9, loves baseball and football. He has been on the championship team and winners in the league's Super Bowl team in 2006 and 2007. Jack, 6, is into baseball and football and at the ripe age of five was on the championship team and winners of the league's Super Bowl.

They are learning teamwork and what it takes to be a winner.

I take great pride in submitting three boys as representatives of Mrs. Blocker's heritage and to represent the Chickasaw men in the future.

Great Grandmother Louise Haddock; daughter of Winnie L. Blocker

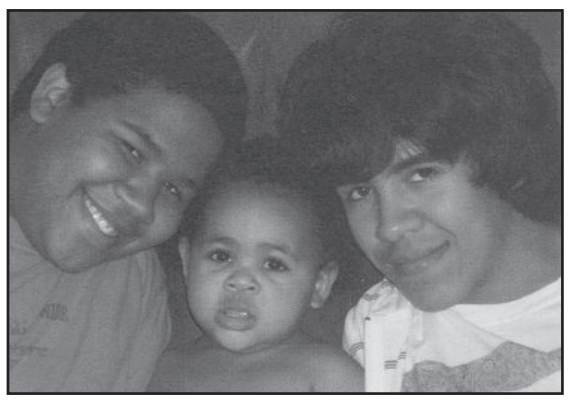
Cody Lockwood

Cody Lockwood is the son of Alisha and Billy Lockwood.

Cody is our pride and joy. He is such a sweet, smart and funny kid. He is our gift from God.

We love him so much!

Chris, Micah and Treston Brown



Chris, Micah and Treston Brown are the sons of Sonya and Preston Brown. They are the grandsons of Delores Greenwood Stick.

There is no friendship, no love, like that of the parent for the child. – Henry Ward Beecher

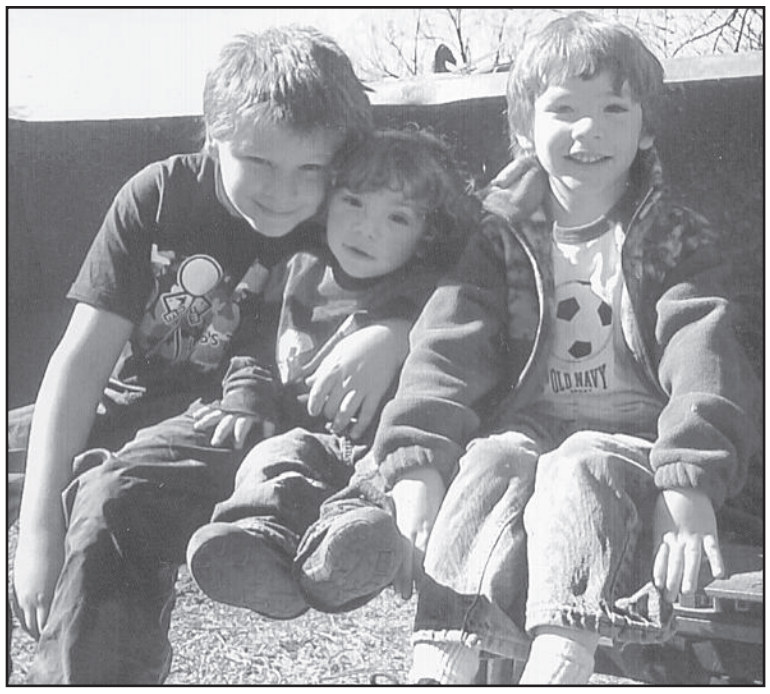
Danya Impson

Danya Impson is the daughter of John and Lisa Impson, of Ada, Okla. She is the granddaughter of Quanah and Sherry Nail, of Ada, Okla., and the late Gwen Impson, of McAlester, Okla. She is the great-granddaughter of the late Joe B. and Ruth Frazier, of Tishomingo, Okla.; Benjamin Nail and the late Fern Nail, of Ada, Okla.; Emma Fisher and the late Robert Fisher, of McAlester, Okla., and the late Thomas and Marie Willie.

Danya is our pride and joy and is truly one of our most special gifts.

We love you very much.
Mom and Dad

J.D. Hickman, Sterlin Hickman and Garrett Hickman



J.D. Hickman, 10, Sterlin Hickman, 2, and Garrett Hickman, 5, are the sons of Johnny and Jeana Hickman. They are the grandsons of Sandra Seay and Dale and Shannon Ledgess.

These children are my pride and joy because my three boys spent mom's birthday cutting wood for their grandpa. My birthday wish was to help get grandpa's wood done. It took half the day to get it done and the other half was spent riding in the bucket of the John Deer Tractor. My three boys are my pride and joy each and everyday!

Chandler Baylee Arterberry

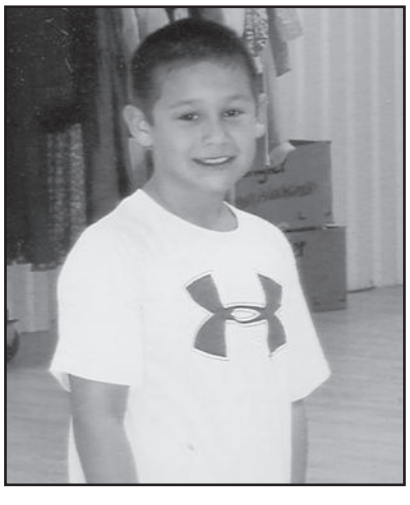
Chandler Baylee Arterberry is the daughter of Jerry and Deborah Arterberry. She is the granddaughter of Deborah Jester, Leo Austin and the late Troy and Anna Belle Arterberry (Imotichey).

Chandler is a 14-year-old 8th grader at Madill Middle School. She is on the honor roll and the Chickasaw Governor's Honor Club.

She is on her junior high softball and track team. She is also a member of FCA. She is active in her youth group at First Baptist Church in Madill.

Chandler is completely dedicated to God, family and friends!

Paxton Arterberry



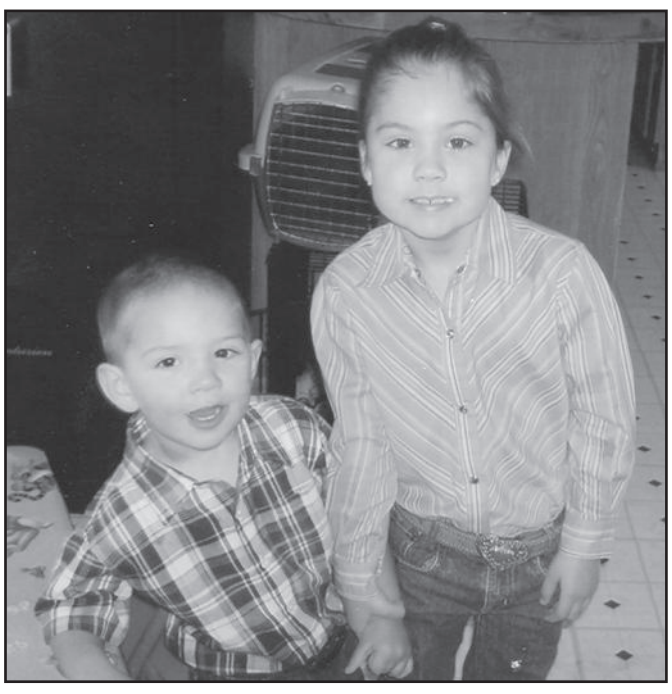
Paxton Arterberry is the son of Jerry and Deborah Arterberry. He is the grandson of Deborah Jester, Leo Austin and the late Troy and Anna Belle Arterberry (Imotichey).

Paxton is a 9-year-old 3rd grader at Madill Elementary School. He is on the honor roll and the Chickasaw Governor's Honor Club.

Paxton is active in baseball, soccer and Upwards basketball.

He is a joy to be around. He is involved with his family and church.

Delton and Brittney O'Steen



Delton and Brittney O'Steen are the children of Tamara and Josh O'Steen. They are the grandchildren of Joann and Kevin Weant and Benny and N.V. Lindawood.

Brittney helps mom feed the goats, while Delton ropes 'em and they love there Granny Joe.

They are very special to me.
Joann Weant

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Bring lawn chairs.
There is a covered area in case of rain.

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'Peace, Love and Yams' a special take on Youth Arts Month

"Peace, Love and Yams" was the theme for the Youth Arts Month (YAM) Celebration Day hosted by the Chickasaw Nation Division of Arts and Humanities on March 8, 2008.

Children participated in several fun and educational booths provided by different departments of the Chickasaw Nation.

"We hoped to achieve a fun way to celebrate Youth Arts Month while advocating for the arts," said Laura Stewart, Arts in Education director.

Art booths, including a yam decorating booth, were provided by the Arts in Education department.

Aubrey Halford, a sixth grader from Ada, declared her creation, a yam wearing a top-hat and a tuxedo, as "Mayor of Potatoville."

Information technology had a "Yam Head" photography booth, where the participants took their pictures and had their head replaced with a yam on the printout. This activity was influenced by the surrealist painting entitled "The Son of Man" by French painter Rene Margritte.

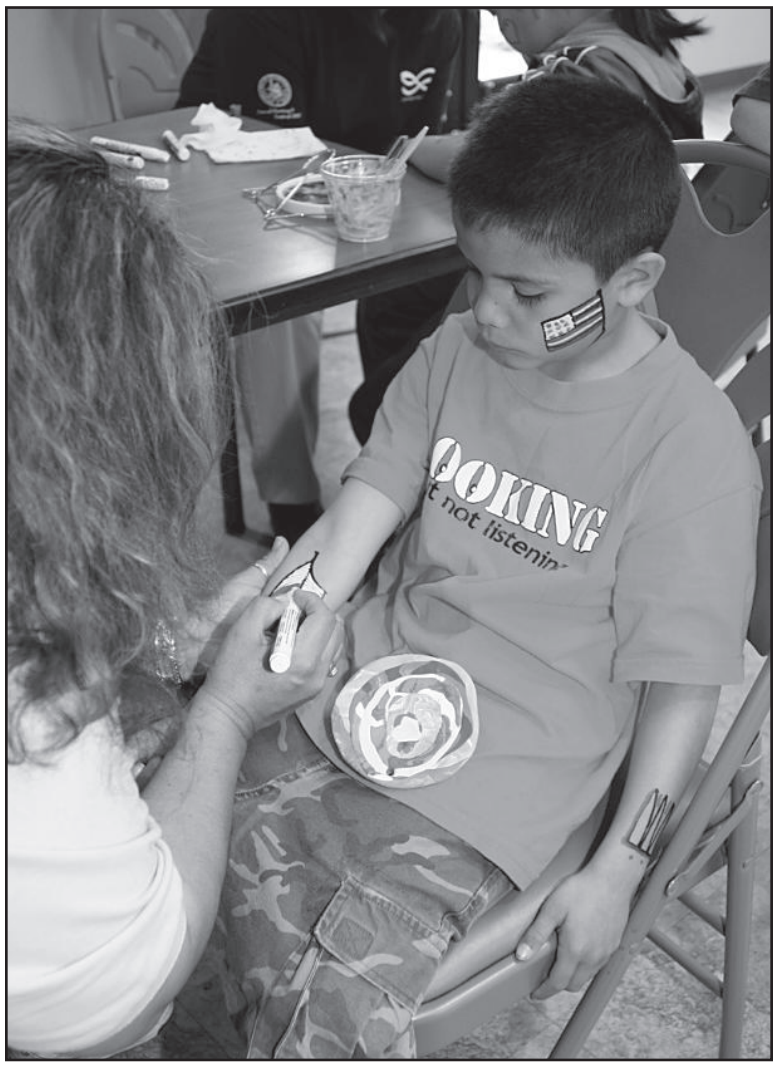
"Culinary Art Parfaits" were offered by Nutrition Services. Youth were encouraged to build a healthy and visually pleasing snack using yogurt, berries, nuts and granola.

"My parfait was cool because it had a lot of layers," said Devin Chapman of Ada.

Lorie Robins of the Performing Arts Department coordinated an adaptation of "Through the Eyes of the Eagle." Written by Georgia Perez, this children's book uses tribal themes to explain the importance of eating well.

"We hope that this more community-based festival will grow every year," said Ms. Stewart. "We will continue to encourage other divisions of the Chickasaw Nation to come on board with us."

Contributed by Carrie Bradshaw, tribal media relations.



Sylas Crockett receives a feather tattoo from Nancy Wade.

Young 'Eagle' actors help tell the story of good nutrition benefits

The cast of "Through the Eyes of the Eagle" include, back row from left, Alexandra Smith and Christine Elliot. Front row from left, Star "Fichik" Frazier, Julie Krause, Cali Stinson and Hanna Laurie.

The Chickasaw Nation is excited about a new fun and educational children's stage production that incorporates the arts, culture and nutrition!

As part of the Youth Art Month Celebration on March 8, the Chickasaw Nation Division of Arts and Humanities and the Get Fresh! Nutrition Program debuted "Through the Eyes of the Eagle" – a series of diabetes prevention stories for children.

This 30-minute, four-act production was adapted for the stage by Chickasaw Nation performing arts coordinator Lorie Robins. The script was adapted from a series of books by author Georgia Perez. Perez has specialized in diabetes education with the Native American Diabetes Project at the University of New Mexico.

This series, which depicts a wise eagle sharing stories with an Indian child named Rain That Dances, is published by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Division of Diabetes Translation and the National Diabetes Prevention Center.

With permission from these organizations, Ms. Robins and Get Fresh! manager Sarah Miracle collaborated to bring these books to life on stage.

The production teaches children about diabetes, ways to have fun and stay active, the benefits of colorful and tasty fruits and vegetables and how to enjoy healthy snacks.

"I feel this was a wonderful collaboration between two divisions that most people would never place together - art and nutrition," Ms. Robins said. "I am really proud of the fact that the Chickasaw Nation is the first to take these books a step further in order to get this important message out because this is a disease that affects all of us."

The consists of young actors, and costumes and set design were created by Arts and Humanities Division staffers.

After each performance, the Get Fresh! nutrition program provides a healthy snack to everyone in the audience.

Future plans for the production include performances at schools, conferences and events.

"This is an exciting and unique avenue for nutrition education," Ms. Miracle said. "We all love a good story and children are especially open to learning through storytelling."

To find out more about the production or to schedule a free performance, contact Lorie Robins at (580) 272-5520 or lorie.robins@chickasaw.net, or Sarah Miracle at (580) 272-5506 or sarah.miracle@chickasaw.net.

Contributed by Kerri McDonald, tribal media relations.

Hunter Conklin adds dried cranberries to his "designer" parfait.

Scholarships and grants available to Chickasaw undergraduates, graduate and vocational students

Are you graduating high school or continuing your college education? Here is your opportunity to explore the higher education scholarships and grants available through the Chickasaw Nation.

Students applying for funds may attend any accredited college in the United States. Accredited comprehensive universities, regional universities, two-year colleges, private institutions and online universities are acceptable. Award notification is given once all paperwork has been completed and returned before respective deadline.

The Chickasaw Nation scholarships and grants for higher education are available to full-time and part-time undergraduate, graduate or doctoral college students. Students must be Chickasaw and possess a Chickasaw citizenship card. The grants and scholarships are intended to assist students by providing funding for tuition, fees and books for those students pursuing a degree from an accredited institution of higher education. The field of study is not limited to a particular discipline.

Applicants must provide the following documents to apply for scholarships and grants listed below:

- Official high school or college transcript
- Essay (high school seniors only)
- Schedule of classes
- Student aid report
- Chickasaw citizenship card

· Letter of recommendation (high school seniors only)

Scholarships and grants available for college students:

Higher Education Grant

(All undergraduate students must apply for federal aid) The grant may be awarded to full-time or part-time undergraduate, graduate or doctoral students enrolled in at least three college credit hours who maintain a 2.0 grade point average or higher each semester. Amounts vary depending on the type of college, because of differences in costs of attending community colleges, regional universities and research universities

General Scholarship Program

This scholarship may be awarded to full or part-time undergraduate, graduate or doctoral students enrolled in at least three credit hours or more while maintaining a 3.0 grade point average or higher each semester. The award is based on enrollment and classification. An incentive is available based on grade point average.

Lifetime Scholarship

The Lifetime Scholarship will be awarded to five full-time students every fall semester who maintain a 3.0 grade point average or higher. This scholarship pays full tuition, fees, books and room and board at any accredited college or university. It is a service repayment scholarship with a maximum of two years of service.

Scholarships available for graduating high school seniors:

Millennium Scholarship

(All full-time undergraduate students must apply for federal aid) This scholarship is awarded to graduating high school seniors having a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or higher. Each year a maximum of 50 scholarships are given to students who will be attending college or vocational training upon high school graduation. The top 50 applicants will each be awarded a $1,000 scholarship. *The deadline for high school seniors applying for the Millennium Scholarship is April 1.

Governor's, Lt. Governor's & Legislators' Scholarships

These scholarships are for graduating high school seniors (awarded one time - no renewal). Students who have a grade point average of 3.85 or higher, or who have been selected as class valedictorian or salutatorian are eligible. *Application deadline is April 1.

Governor's Scholarship 3.95 GPA or higher or class valedictorian - $500
Lt. Governor's Scholarship 3.90 GPA or higher or class salutatorian - $400
Legislators' Scholarship 3.85 GPA or higher - $350

Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes - Johnson O'Malley Scholarship

Each year the Chickasaw Nation awards one male and one female graduating high school senior (awarded one time - no renewal). The students must be attending a school within the Chickasaw Nation that has a Johnson O'Malley program. A $300 scholarship is awarded to the recipients. *Students must turn in a copy of their citizenship card, high school transcript, essay and recommendation letter by April 1.

Additional scholarships, grants and incentives:

Chikasha Holitoplichi (Chickasaw Honor)

Students must maintain a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or higher to be a member.

Classification Change Incentive

Students may apply for a $500 incentive provided they complete each classification with a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or higher.

Clothing Scholarship

This grant may be awarded to full-time or part-time undergraduate, graduate or doctoral students enrolled in at least six college credit hours who maintain a 2.0 grade point average or higher each semester. Full-time students may be awarded a $400 clothing scholarship for each college classification such as freshman, sophomore, junior, senior, graduate, doctorate or vocational student. Part-time students enrolled in at least six college credit hours may be awarded a $200 clothing scholarship for every 14 hours completed for undergraduates or for every 15 hours completed for graduate or doctoral students. The scholarship will be distributed to the student in the form of a pre-paid Visa card.

Laptop Scholarship

Full-time students with a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or higher may apply for a laptop computer scholarship once during their college career. Only full-time students are eligible to apply. **Once a laptop computer is received, it cannot be returned due to a change in the laptop specifications or vendor brand name. *Laptop scholarships are not available for the summer semester.**

Text Book Grant

This grant may be awarded to full-time or part-time undergraduate, graduate or doctoral students enrolled in at least three college credit hours who maintain a 2.0 grade point average or higher each semester. Part-time students may be awarded $100 per semester. Full-time students may be awarded $200 per semester.

College graduation assistance

This program assists college graduates with caps, gowns, invitations and other expenses incurred with graduating, up to $150 on a reimbursement basis. *The deadline to apply is no later than one month after degree is completed.

Degree Completion Incentive

Students may apply for a $1,000 incentive provided they complete a bachelor degree or higher regardless of GPA. Part-time and full-time students are eligible to apply

Graduation Fee Assistance

Graduating college students may apply to receive reimbursement up to $150 for expenses related to graduation such as caps, gowns, invitations and degree checks

Graduation Honor Stole

Students receiving a bachelor, master or doctoral degree with a 3.0 to 3.49 GPA may apply for an honor stole. Students graduating with a 3.5 to 4.0 GPA may apply for the higher honor stole. Part-time and full-time students are eligible to apply.

Graduation Watches

Students completing bachelor, master or doctoral degrees who have a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher may apply for a graduation watch. Part-time and full-time students may apply.

License and Certification Fees Assistance

Students may apply for assistance with fees relating to recertification or licensing either by prepayment of fees or reimbursement.

Unless noted, the scholarship and grant application deadline for the fall semester is September 1, spring semester deadline is February 1 and the summer semester deadline is June 15. For more information and to obtain required scholarship and grant applications, contact the higher education department at (580) 421-7711, deborah.hook@chickasaw.net <mailto:deborah.hook@chickasaw.net> or www.chickasaweducationservices.com <http://www.chickasaweducationservices.com/>

Contributed by Brooke Tidwell, tribal media relations.

Chickasaw Foundation Educational Scholarships

The Chickasaw Foundation also provides educational assistance for students who demonstrate excellence in academics, community service, Native American dedication and a commitment to learning.

For more information about the foundation scholarships or to request an application, contact the Chickasaw Foundation at (580) 421-9030, chickasaw.foundation@chickasaw.net <mailto:chickasaw.foundation@chickasaw.net> or www.chickasawfoundation.org <http://www.chickasawfoundation.org/>

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"A Chickasaw Tribal Member"

You may be eligible even if you normally don't file a tax return

Federal economic stimulus payments soon to be issued

Starting in May, economic stimulus payments of up to $600 for individuals or $1,200 for married couples will be issued by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) based on 2007 tax returns. Parents also get $300 for each eligible child.

To receive the payments this year, people must file a 2007 tax return. That's it. The IRS will determine eligibility, figure the amount and send the payment. This payment will be in addition to taxpayers' refunds.

But, the IRS needs your help. Many people are eligible for the payments but may not know it.

Some people do not file a tax return because their income is too low or their benefits are nontaxable. Because they don't file a tax return, the IRS does not know their names or addresses.

People who do not normally file a tax return but who have at least $3,000 in qualified income may be eligible for a minimum payment of $300 for individuals or $600 for married couples.

The $3,000 must come from specific sources. It must be earned from wages or self-employment. Or, it must be from certain benefits such as Social Security retirement, Railroad Retirement or Veterans Affairs payments to disabled veterans or veterans' survivors. It also can be from a combination of wages and these benefits.

There are some restrictions. People must have valid Social Security numbers for themselves and children. Those who are claimed as a dependent on someone else's tax return, or who are eligible to be claimed as a dependent on someone else's tax return, do not qualify.

The IRS is working with the Social Security Administration and Department of Veterans Affairs to locate their beneficiaries who may be eligible. Also, people who do not file a tax return because of low incomes are hard to locate. The IRS does not have their names or addresses.

Tribal governments are helping by spreading the word about these payments, especially to those people who normally don't file a tax return. The IRS also is encouraging churches, charities, nonprofit and government organizations to help reach out to those who may be eligible for the payments.

People who already file a tax return each year, need do nothing more to file their tax return. The IRS will do the rest. People who normally don't file a return can use Form 1040A with just a little information. There is no need to complete all the lines on the form. Details needed include:

• Name, address, Social Security number;

• Filing status, names and Social Security numbers of children;

• Workers with low incomes must complete Line 7;

• Recipients of certain benefits from Social Security retirement, Railroad Retirement and Veterans Affairs can report their total benefits on line 14a of Form 1040A;

• Write "Economic Stimulus Payment" at the top of the paper return.

Filers with bank accounts should use direct deposit. It is the fastest way to receive stimulus payments. The IRS will begin sending taxpayers their payments in early May after the current tax season concludes. These payments will not be taxable nor will the payments affect any federal benefits people are receiving.

The IRS Web site, www.irs.gov, is the best source of information on economic stimulus payments. For a the nearest

Free VITA/AARP tax aide site please call 1-800-906-9887.

Native American 5,000-meter run set for April 27 in Albuquerque

ALBUQUERQUE – The Native American Sports Council's Sports Warrior Track Club is hosting the first annual Native American 5,000-meter run "National Championships" in Albuquerque, on Sunday, April 27, 2008. This event will serve as a national Native American Championships and will require participants to provide proof of Native American tribal membership.

There are four age divisions for this year's championship event. Male and female youth, grades 8 and under; Young Adult, grades 9 – 12; Adults Out of high school; and Masters, those over 40 years of age. The top 10 runners in each division will receive awards and the overall winners of each division will receive special awards and the distinction of being the Native American National Champion.

Other events, which require no tribal membership, include non-competitive fitness one and two mile walks and a 400-meter toddler and youth dash. Additional competitive events include a community 5,000-meter run with age divisions, 12 and under; 13-16; 17-19; 20-29; 30-39; 40-49, 50-59; and 60 and up, and a youth focused 1,000-meter with age divisions, 8-under; 9-10; and 11-12. Awards are given to the top five male and female finishers.

The events start with the fitness walks at 8 a.m.; 8:30 1K youth races; 8:50 400-meter toddler and youth dash; and 9 a.m. the Native American and Open Community 5K runs. The race will be at Volcano High School, located on Albuquerque's West side, 8100 Rainbow Blvd., NW.

To download a race flyer and entry form visit the NASC website: www.nascsports.org, or email SportsWarriorsTC@aol.com to have on sent to you. For further information, contact the race director at (505) 890-3430 or (505) 710-3323.

Proceeds go to support the NASC's Sports Warriors Track Club. The program provides assistance to Native American distance runners who qualify to compete in USATF sanctioned events and the Volcano Vista high school track team.

The Native American Sports Council (NASC) is a 501 © 3 non-profit multi-sport community-based member of the United States Olympic Committee (USOC). The NASC promotes athletic excellence and wellness within Native Americans communities through sports programs which combine traditional Native American values with those of the modern Olympics.

Letter to Editor

I attended the listening conference Feb. 19 - 22, 2008. This is the second time I have been selected to attend. I want to thank everyone who was involved. Everyone that I met and shared this event was very impressed. I read the Times every month and very seldom do I see letters to the Editors. I hope this will make the paper. I want to make it know to all the citizens what a wonderful time of sharing. I live in California near Sacramento.

Thank you,
Joann Lewis

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EOE M/F/D/V
Native American Preference
Drug Free Workplace

CNI has many career opportunities across the country. If you are searching for a rewarding career with a great company, look no further! Below are some of the many opportunities we have available:

DENTISTS
Ft. Riley in Manhattan, KS
Ft. Bliss in El Paso, TX
Ft. Bragg in Fayetteville, NC
Ft. Sill in Lawton, OK
Ft. Polk in Leesville, LA

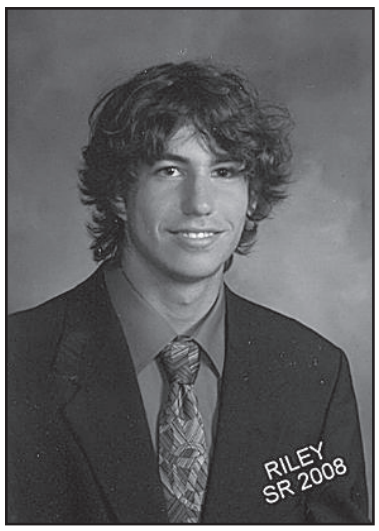
DENTAL HYGIENISTS
Ft. Riley in Manhattan, KS
Ft. Irwin in Barstow, CA

POSITIONS IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
North Chicago, IL
Albuquerque, NM
Jacksonville, FL
Oklahoma City, OK

For job descriptions of these positions and many others or to apply with CNI, go to www.chickasaw.com/careers. You'll be glad you did!

CHICKASAW NATION INDUSTRIES
A FAMILY OF COMPANIES WHOLLY OWNED BY THE CHICKASAW NATION

Riley Harpole named Chickasaw Foundation 'Student of the Month'



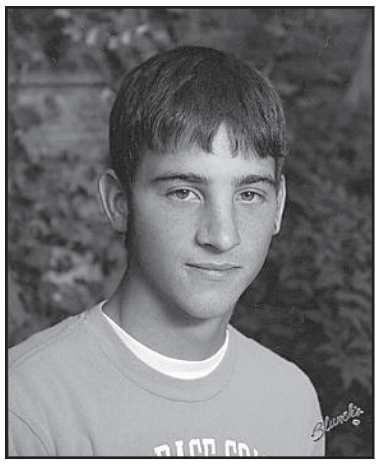
Riley Harpole

The Chickasaw Foundation established the Chickasaw Foundation Student of the Month program to recognize and honor students who display the following characteristics: good citizenship, respectful to peers and program staff, program participation, leadership qualities, positive attitude, demonstrates responsibility, community service participation, cultural/tribal activities participation and demonstrates a positive academic work ethic.

Mr. Riley Harpole was selected as the February Student of the Month. He is a senior at Davis High School and has been a member of the Upward Bound program for the last four years. He was nominated by Ms. Rebecca Easterling, academic advisor for the Chickasaw Foundation Upward Bound program.

Riley is also enrolled at the Oklahoma School of Science and Mathematics in Ardmore. He maintains a 4.0 GPA and hopes to be the valedictorian of his senior class. He is a member of the National and Oklahoma Honor Societies and participates on his school's academic team as well as with football and track. He plans to attend the University of Oklahoma majoring in computer engineering.

Samuel Davis awarded Bank2 Ta-ossaa-asha' Scholarship



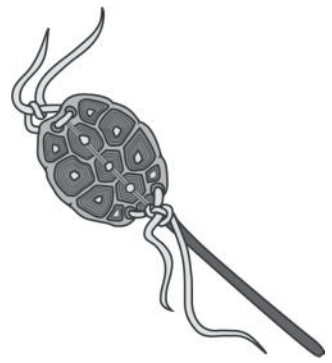
Samuel Davis

Congratulations to Mr. Samuel Davis, who was recently selected the 2008 spring recipient of the ***Bank2 Ta-ossaa-asha' Scholarship.***

Samuel is a graduate of Blanchard High School and a freshman at Southeastern Oklahoma State University majoring in business/accounting. During high school he lettered in sports for four years, was a member of the National Honor Society, Gifted and Talented, and Student Council. He received an award for scoring in the top five percent in the nation for math and science on the PLAN ACT, and received the USAA National Science Merit Award and was nominated for the Chickasaw Student of the Year.

Samuel's community contributions include coaching Little League basketball, working for the J.E. Ranch Foundation, church Bible school programs and Hot Dogs for the Homeless.

He has also operated his own fireworks stand and lawn service for six years. His future plans are to graduate and own a personal business.



Upward Bound Math/Science students attend Trio Day

The Chickasaw Foundation Upward Bound and Upward Bound Math/Science students attended Trio Day at the State Capitol on February 13. Trio Day is an annual event that serves to highlight the accomplishments of Oklahoma Trio participants as well as promote awareness and secure legislative support for Trio programs.

The Oklahoma Division of Student Assistance (ODSA) and Southeastern Oklahoma State University (SOSU) hosted the event. The welcome was provided by Michelle Claxton, Trio Day Chair and Director of the Educational Opportunity Center at SOSU. The presentation of colors was given by the Kiowa Black Leggings Warrior Society. Tracy Gilbert, SOSU, sang the National Anthem, and Dr. Michael Turner, President of SOSU, provided greetings from the host institution. Senator Jay Paul Gumm recognized special guests, and a proclamation was read by Oklahoma Secretary of State, Susan Savage. Guest speakers included Lisa J. Billy; Representative for District 42 and former Chickasaw legislator, Senator Susan Paddack, T.W. Shannon, Representative for District 62, Lt. Governor Jari Askins and Chancellor Glen D. Johnson, Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education. Testimonials were given by several students who have been helped by Trio programs.

Recognition was also given to this year's Trio service project "Campaign for 1,000 Books" which collected new or gently used books for the Sooner Start program.

The Chickasaw Foundation Upward Bound and Upward Bound Math/Science programs had 70 students attend, and they donated 90 books. After the visit to the state capitol, students were taken to Spaghetti Warehouse in Bricktown for a lunch meeting.

For more information on the Chickasaw Foundation Upward Bound and Upward Bound Math/Science programs at Murray State College, please call (580) 371-9903.

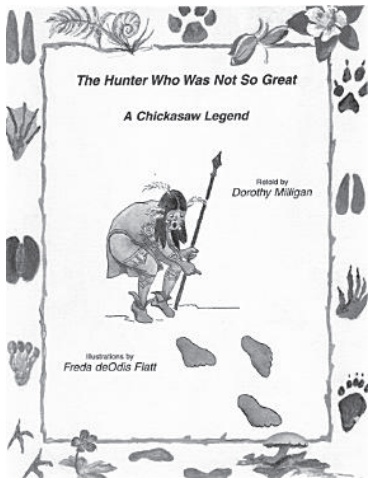
April
2008
The Chickasaw White House
est. 1895
Kite Fly
Home of Governor Douglas H. Johnston
6379 East Mansion Road, Millburn, OK 73450
Bring your family to the Chickasaw White House for a fun day of kite flying. During the early 1900's, kite flying was a very popular past time and the Johnston family spent countless hours making and flying kites at the White House. Bring your own kite or use one of the kites provided by the staff. Children must be accompanied by an adult.
Friday and Saturday
April 4-5, and April 11-12
10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.
Come see the
Newly restored, 1890's
historic home of Chickasaw
Governor Douglas H. Johnston.
For more information,
tours or directions,
please contact the
Chickasaw White House
at (580) 436-2603.

The Hunter Who Was Not So Great- A Children's Book

The Chickasaw Foundation has a very limited supply of ***The Hunter Who Was Not So Great***, a children's book. Please call or come by our office today for your copy.

The Hunter Who Was Not So Great:

A Chickasaw Legend The Hunter Who Was Not So Great centers around a brave hunter who becomes a little too confident in his abilities and must learn the lesson of not bragging. This lesson is delivered by Ihoff, the giant who lives deep in the forest and possesses strange powers including a "secret weapon."



You can receive a FREE copy of this book with your $25 donation to the Chickasaw Foundation. Complete the order form below and mail, with your donation, to the Foundation at P.O. 1726, Ada, OK 74821-1726 or visit our office at 110 West 12th Street in Ada.

Name:: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State:_____

Zip Code: _____ Telephone Number: ( ) _____

442 piers being installed, each weighing about 15 tons

Health facility complex construction continues on schedule

Mike McKee

A pilot hold is drilled in preparation for the installation of a 30'-50' pier.

Work is steadily under way on the new Chickasaw Nation Medical Center in Ada, Okla. Dirt work on the hospital pad took several weeks to complete, and now workers are installing concrete piers on the site.

By the end of construction, 442 massive piers will be set at depths ranging from 30-50 feet. The piers will eventually connect to the foundation and metal structure to support the 370,000 square foot health care facility. The new campus will house a 72-bed hospital, level 3 emergency department, ambulatory care facility, diabetes care center, dental clinic, diagnostic imaging center and women's health center.

The pier installation process requires many steps and careful calculation by workers. Each pier varies in length from 30-50 feet and an average of eight cubic yards of concrete is required for each pier. The average weight of each pier is in excess of 15 tons.

Because the piers are so massive, 12 or more workers and heavy equipment are required for the different stages of setting a pier.

Stages of setting a pier:

1) GPS is used to locate the drilling location for each pier.

2) A pilot hole is drilled approximately 20 feet into the ground.

3) A casing is placed on the pilot hole with the use of a crane and a large vibrator is used to send the casing into the ground and into the bearing surface of shale. The shale surface varies from 30-50 feet in depth.

4) Once the casing reaches the desired depth, surplus soil and shale is removed.

5) A reinforced steel cage is lowered into the hole and filled with concrete.

6) After the concrete has a few minutes to set, the vibrator is used to pull the casing out of the ground.

Once all of the piers are installed, workers will pour grade beams at the perimeter of the building pad. A grade beam is a foundation wall that is poured level with or just below the grade of the earth. After the grade beams are established, they will pour pier caps on top of each existing pier and then the building slab will be poured.

Weather has delayed the pier installation process, but according to CNHS project management, construction is still on schedule and they are optimistic that the pier process will continue without interruption over the next few weeks.

Contributed by Karissa Pickett, tribal media relations.

Mike McKee

Workers build reinforcing cages for the piers.

Mike McKee

Excess soil and shale is removed from the casing once the desired depth is reached.

Mike McKee

A casing is placed on the pilot hole with the use of a large crane. A vibrator is used to send the pipe into the shale surface, which varies from 30'-50' in depth.

May 2 is deadline for June 2-6 Diabetes Camp

The Annual Chickasaw Nation Diabetes Camp will be June 2-6, 2008 at the Microtel Inn & Suites in Davis, Okla.

The camp is designed to educate patients on preventative measures to help control blood sugar through proper dieting and physical activity.

The camp is free and open to patients of the Chickasaw Nation Health System. Participants are allowed to bring a guest or family member to the camp. All campers and guests must be over 12 years of age. The deadline for registration is May 2, 2008. For more information or to register, contact Shon McCage at (800) 851-9136 ext 82252, (580) 421-4532 ext 82252 or shondra.mccage@chickasaw.net.

Contributed by Karissa Pickett, tribal media relations.

Visit the CHIC Center!

The CHIC Center is a patient health information center where you can use computers to access health care information through the National Library of Medicine. It is located in the main lobby of CAIHF. CHIC Center staff is available to assist patients during their visit. Privacy screens will also be utilized so patients can maintain confidentiality and printers will be available for those who prefer to print information for home review.

Visit www.chicresources.net or www.nlm.nih.gov to access the latest in health information.

For more information on the CHIC Center, call Elizabeth Brewer at (580) 436-3980 ext. 80919.

chic
CHICKASAW HEALTH INFORMATION CENTER

Get Fresh! staff featured on 'Together at the Table'

Sarah Miracle, manager of the tribal Get Fresh! program, and Ruth Burrows, food demonstration specialist, recently had the opportunity to film segments for "Together at the Table."

"Together at the Table" is an educational program that shows viewers how to cook healthy meals. The show seeks to create awareness about the importance of family meal time, and focuses on health issues, like childhood obesity and diabetes, that face many Americans today.

"Together at the Table" is hosted by Jennifer Eve. The program airs each week on Oklahoma City KWTV News 9 during the Wednesday noon news segment and the Sunday morning news.

Ruth Burrows' segment, in which she prepares Chicken Italiano, is scheduled to air April 2, 2008. Sarah Miracle's segment features Southwest Mini Quiches and is scheduled to air May 7, 2008.

Ms. Miracle's son, Sam Smith, a student at Ada Junior High School, also filmed a segment for the program. Sam is a member of the Pontotoc County 4-H Nutrition Club. His show featured Pork Bundles and is set to air May 21, 2008.

For more information on the Get Fresh! program, please call (580) 272-5506.

Contributed by Karissa Pickett, tribal media relations.

Southwest Mini Quiche

1 chicken breast, cooked and cubed small
2 T onions, chopped
3 T fat free half and half cream
1 ¼ c egg substitute
¼ med. bell pepper, any color, chopped
½ c frozen corn
6 corn tortillas
½ c cheddar cheese, low fat
Taco Seasoning:
1 t instant minced onion
1 t chili powder
½ t cumin powder
½ t crushed red pepper
½ t instant minced garlic
¼ t oregano

PREHEAT oven to 350° F. SPRAY 12-cup muffin pan with nonstick spray. QUARTER the tortillas and PLACE 2 quarters in each muffin cup. PLACE a spoonful of chicken in each tortilla cup. MIX onions, cream, egg substitute, peppers, corn and taco seasoning in bowl. POUR scant ¼ cup of mixture over chicken. BAKE for 25 minutes. REMOVE and TOP with cheese.

Makes 12 mini quiche, 2 per serving

Nutrition Information: 160 calories; 2.5 g fat; 20 mg cholesterol; 210 mg sodium; 18 g carbohydrates; 3 g dietary fiber; 17 g protein.

Chickasaw Nation Nutrition Services

This material was funded by the USDA's Food Stamp Program. This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer. For more information on Food Stamps or the Commodity grocery stores, visit www.getfreshcooking.com.

Chicken Italiano

3 c. penne pasta, cooked and drained, omitting salt
1lb. chicken breast, skinless and boneless, cubed
½ t. olive oil
2 c. broccoli florets
2 red bell peppers, sliced
2 yellow squash, sliced
1 14-oz. can no-salt-added diced tomatoes, drained
¼ c. white cooking wine
½ t. basil
½ t. oregano
¼ t. black pepper
¼ c. fat free Parmesan cheese, grated

Spray a non-stick skillet with cooking spray. Over medium high heat, cook chicken until done and set aside in a bowl. Add oil to pan and sauté broccoli, peppers, and squash for 3 to 4 minutes. Add tomatoes, cooking wine, herbs, and pepper, cooking for 5 more minutes. Toss chicken, vegetable mixture and pasta in skillet. Sprinkle with Parmesan cheese.

Makes 14 1-cup servings

Nutrition Information: 130 calories; 1 g fat; 20 mg cholesterol; 90 mg sodium; 17 g carbohydrates; 2 g fiber; 11 g protein.

Chickasaw Nation Nutrition Services

This material was funded by the USDA's Food Stamp Program
This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer. For more information on Food Stamps or the Food Distribution Program, visit www.getfreshcooking.com.

Pork Bundles

3 T. olive oil, divided
11/2 c. pork loin, cooked and cubed small
5 green onions, diced using most of green
6 garlic gloves, minced
1/2 c. parmesan cheese, grated
1 package fresh spinach
8 oz. Ricotta cheese
¼ t. oregano
¼ t. nutmeg
20 egg roll wrappers
Marinara or spaghetti sauce – 1/4c. per serving

Heat skillet on medium high heat, add 1 T. oil, onions and meat. Cool until pork is lightly browned and onions are soft. Add garlic and cook one minute longer.

Steam spinach in microwave for 2 to 3 minutes – until it is wilted. Add spinach, parmesan, ricotta, oregano, and nutmeg to pork mixture.

Brush the muffin tins with the olive oil –paper muffin cups can also be used to line the muffin tins to make clean up and removing them from the tins easier. Carefully press one egg roll wrapper into each muffin cup and fill with about 2 T. of the pork and spinach mixture. Fold edges of egg roll wrapper over mixture and brush with oil. Continue until all bundles are made.

Bake in a preheated 350 degree oven for about 20 to 25 minutes, or until lightly brown. Remove the bundles and serve with marinara/spaghetti sauce – place about ¼ c. of sauce on plate, top with two bundles, garnish with some grated parmesan cheese sprinkled over bundles.

Serves 10 – 2 bundles per serving.

Nutrition per 2 bundles: Calories 270, Fat 9 g , Cholesterol 30 mg, Sodium 440 mg, Carbohydrates 33g, protein 16 g.

Tip: Bundles can be wrapped separately in aluminum foil then placed in a large freezer bag and stored in freezer for 2 to 3 months.

Various Nursing Positions are available with the Chickasaw Nation

To find out more about becoming a part of our wonderful team,

please contact:
Jamie Spence, CPMSM
Professional Recruiter
The Chickasaw Nation Division of Health
(580) 272-7272
jamie.spence@chickasaw.net

"We are an approved site for I.H.S. Scholarship and Loan Repayment Programs"

Visit Carl Albert gift shop today!

Visit the Carl Albert Hospital Volunteers gift shop. All proceeds are used to purchase items for the hospital that will benefit employees and patients. The jewelry and crafts are made by Native Americans. Flutes, drums, Pendleton bags, blankets, beaded caps, Choctaw hymnals, CDs, and Bedre candy are a few of the items available.

Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Diabetes Support Group

Co-Sponsored by the Chickasaw Nation and Valley View Regional Hospital.

Meets 6:30 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month at Valley View Regional Hospital.

Next meeting is March 18, 2008.

Guest Speaker: Paul Stone will present on the topic of diabetes and medications.

For more information, contact Melissa Vavricka-Conaway at (800) 851-9136 ext. 82270.

Tribes to gather for injury prevention/health promotion event

The Chickasaw Nation Injury Prevention/Health Promotion Committee will sponsor its 7th Annual Injury Prevention Health Promotion Conference April 30 through May 2.

Conducted at the Lake Murray State Park and Lodge near Ardmore, Okla., the conference is open to everyone interested in learning more about preventing injury and staying healthy.

"We are really excited because more tribes are involved this year," said Kim Chapman, committee chairperson.

Representatives from the Chickasaw, Seminole, Caddo and Choctaw tribes will be present.

"This conference is really to provide education," said Mrs. Chapman, "but it's also an excellent way to develop contacts with health representatives from other tribes."

Several Chickasaw Nation employees will be teaching sessions. These sessions will educate participants on everything from preventing slips, trips and falls to dealing with addiction.

On Tuesday, April 29, a pre-conference Child Passenger Safety class will be conducted. The class will be taught by Cheryl Willis, Chickasaw Nation Community Health Representative (CHR) and Child Passenger Safety technician.

Carol Fox, a Chickasaw Nation CHR, has participated in the conference for six years.

"It's a really good opportunity to learn about several different topics in a short amount of time," Mrs. Fox said.

Keynote speaker will be Dione Harjo, Community Health Representative coordinator for Indian Health Service. Ms. Harjo is also a Chickasaw citizen.

Evening activities scheduled include exercise classes, a Casino Night and a Stomp Dance hosted by the Chickasaw Nation Dance Troupe.

Registration is $100 per person and may be paid in advance or at the door. There is also an option to pay by day at the rate of $35. Cost for the pre-conference events is an additional $25.

For more information about the conference or to register, contact Kim Chapman at (580) 436-2603.

Contributed by Carrie Bradshaw, tribal media relations.

Farmers' Market program starts May 1

The Chickasaw Nation Farmers' Market Nutrition Program will begin on May 1, 2008.

The farmers' market program provides vouchers to be used for the purchase of Oklahoma grown fresh fruits and vegetables from authorized farmers' markets and farm stands throughout the Chickasaw Nation and surrounding areas.

All Chickasaw Nation Women, Infants and Children Supplemental Nutrition Program (WIC) participants are eligible for the program and will receive their farmers' market vouchers in local WIC offices during regularly scheduled pick up appointments.

Seniors are eligible for the program if they meet the following guidelines:

- Meet income requirements
- Receive services from the Chickasaw Nation Health System
- **Native American 55 years of age or older and a CDIB card holder**
- Non-Native American 60 years of age or older living in a Native American household
- Disabled persons under 60 years of age living in housing for elderly with congregate nutrition services

Disabled Chickasaw citizens are also eligible for the program (as determined by SSI).

Applications can be received by mail or picked up at WIC and Food Distribution Program sites in Ada, Ardmore, Purcell, Tishomingo, Sulphur, Pauls Valley, Duncan, Marlow or Achille. The application can also be found at www.chickasaw.net.

The Chickasaw Nation Farmers' Market vouchers for seniors will be issued by mail once an application is dropped off at one of the above locations and processed.

For more information, please contact Jennifer Hayes or Leah Delozier at (888) 436-7255 or (580) 436-7255.

Contributed by Karissa Pickett, tribal media relations.

Kids nine to 13 eligible for Camp Survivor

The Chickasaw Nation will host the annual Camp Survivor youth event May 27-30, 2008 at Camp Classen in Davis, Okla.

The camp is open to all students between the ages of nine and 13. Participants must have a CDIB card.

The camp's mission is to promote a healthy lifestyle through proper nutrition and exercise in a fun and positive camp atmosphere. Heritage is also integrated into those efforts.

During the duration of the camp, there will be many cultural activities involving exercise and endurance.

Campers can expect to participate in a variety of activities throughout the week including hiking, fishing, canoeing, stickball, archery, nutrition education games and various other activities that focus on physical activity, teamwork and culture.

The camp is offered at no charge to Chickasaw students thanks to revenues produced by tribal businesses.

Applications may be completed online at www.chickasaw.net/youthcamps .

The application deadline is April 14, 2008.

For more information about Camp Survivor, please contact Melissa Wilkerson (580) 310-6620.

Contributed by Karissa Pickett, tribal media relations.

Children's Fair set for April 19

The 2008 Children's Fair will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 19, 2008 at the Pontotoc County Agri-Plex.

The event celebrates the Week of the Young Child and Child Abuse Prevention Month. This year's theme for Week of the Young Child is *Bring Communities Together for Children-Children Bring Communities Together*.

The event is open to the public and everyone is encouraged to participate.

"With everyone's help and the community's continued investment and diligence, we will provide a better and brighter future for generations to come," said Governor Bill Anoatubby.

The free, family-oriented event features information booths, food, entertainment, rides, clowns, games and many other activities throughout the day.

This year's Children's Fair is sponsored by the Chickasaw Nation.

For more information, please contact Deanna Carpitche at (580) 421-4591.

Contributed by Karissa Pickett, tribal media relations.

Dream of owning your own home?

CHUKA CHUKMASI is a secondary market Conventional Loan for Chickasaw Citizens and Chickasaw Nation Employees. The CNDHTD can assist you with down payment and closing costs. Qualified borrowers invest as little as $500.00. We offer expanded underwriting guidelines that allow those with less than perfect credit to be approved. There are no income guidelines. Maximum loan amount is $359,650.00 and the minimum is $10,000. In addition we can assist with refinancing for homeowners who want to lower their interest rates and or payments.

NEW CONSTRUCTION LOANS: Are you interested in building your own home? If you have been approved for your 30 year financing, Housing Counseling & Loan Services can provide an interim construction loan for you to build your home. This program is open to Chickasaws and employees of the Chickasaw Nation anywhere in the State of Oklahoma. The interest rate on the construction loan is only 5%, the term is 6 months and be prepared to make interest payments on the construction loan during construction. Please call us for further information.

HOME IMPROVEMENT LOAN PROGRAM: Do you need to make improvements to your home but just don't have the money? Chickasaw Nation Division of Housing & Tribal Development's Home Improvement Loan Program may be the answer. Maximum loan amount is $30,000.00; interest rate is 5% and maximum term is 10 years. You must be able to qualify for the loan, must have fee simple title and cannot already have a 2nd mortgage for home improvements. Available only for Chickasaws and employees of the Chickasaw Nation in the State of Oklahoma. Work must be completed by a licensed contractor.

Chickasaw Nation Division of Housing & Tribal Development

901 North Country Club
P.O. Box 788
Ada, OK 74820

Kay Perry
Director, GML, CHEC
(580) 421-8856

Summer Stick
Section Head, CHEC
(580) 421-8862

Dena Musgraves
(580) 421-8867

Kyra Childers
CHEC
(580) 421-8817

Shannon Hill
(580) 421-8867

'Its About Money'

Simple suggestions to make tax time a bit less painful

Ross Hill

By ROSS HILL
Chief Executive Officer
Bank2

Don't you just love tax season? Nothing can drain your pocket book like Uncle Sam. There are a few tax-season tips that could possibly relieve your stress and help keep you from feeling like "big brother" is a professional pickpocket.

The following are not intended to serve as financial or tax advice. It is always best to consult a tax and/or financial adviser when making tax and financial decisions. Nonetheless, the following ideas might help relieve the stress often associated with tax season!

1. Don't get in a hurry

It is true. Haste makes waste. Waiting until the last minute can increase the likelihood of silly mistakes and increased stress. Give yourself ample time to pull together all of the information you need for filing your taxes. This is a good idea even if you will have someone else filing out all the paperwork. Slow down. Pace yourself. Spread things out over a few days and then double-check your work.

2. Do the math

The IRS says the most common mistakes with tax returns are related to bad math. Transpose a few numbers and you might find yourself stressed out with an IRS auditor on your doorstep. Check your work and when possible have someone else take a peek at your numbers as well. While you are at it, make sure you have entered the correct personal identifications numbers for everyone listed on your return. Reading the numbers out loud is a great way to verify your work.

3. Be on time

To be early is to be on time. Life happens. Waiting to put your return in the mailbox on April 15 could result in stiff penalties and increased stress. The IRS isn't big on excuses. Claiming your dog ate it may have worked when you were in school but the government has heard every excuse in the book. Plan on getting your return in the mail before the deadline. You can ask for an automatic six-month extension by filing Form 4868. By filing the extension, you avoid the late-filing penalty. However, Form 4868 does not extend the time to pay your income tax. So, estimate your tax bill and send that amount with your Form 4868. If you can't pay it all, at least pay whatever amount you can.

4. Don't forget your autograph

No one thinks you are more popular than the IRS. They want your "John Hancock" more than a teenager girl wants Hannah Montana's autograph. Look over the paperwork closely and flag sections where your signature and those filing with you are required. No signature? No return! Ugh! Now that is stressful!

These are just a few simple ideas that might make all the difference on your tax season stress-o-meter. Few people enjoy filing taxes. But there really is no reason to make it more stressful than it needs to be. Good luck and happy filing!

Ross A. Hill is CEO of Bank2. Bank2 is a growing $85 million full service financial institution with headquarters in Oklahoma City, Okla. Bank2 is owned 100% by the Chickasaw Nation. It's About Money is published monthly by Bank2 as a financial service to members of the Chickasaw Nation. To learn more about the many great financial services and Bank2 home loan programs designed especially for Native Americans, call toll-free nationwide, 1-877-409-2265 or online at www.bank2.biz

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Ada, Ardmore, Sulphur Area
Chickasaw Citizen

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CHICKASAW REUNION 2008

11TH ANNUAL

Chikashsha Ittifama

A cultural weekend remembering Chickasaw Traditions

June 20-21, 2008
Kullihoma Stomp Grounds

Located 7 miles northeast of Ada, on Hwy. 1, then 3 miles east and 1 mile south.

Opening Ceremony
Friday and Saturday begins at 10 a.m.

Join us for cultural demonstrations, storytelling, squirrel stick throwing, social dancing, stomp dancing, Chickasaw games, stickball games and loksi races.

For more information, contact the cultural resources department at (580) 332-8685.

Admission is free. Overnight camp sites are available (bring tent and chairs), RV's are welcome limited hook-ups available.

NO POLITICS, NO FIREARMS, NO DRUGS, NO ALCOHOL, NO PETS

The Way to the Red Path: Profile of Claud Johnson

By RICHARD GREEN
Contributing Writer

One

Most of Claud Johnson's earliest memories, from the mid-1940s, are of his father, Robinson Johnson. In one, his father, a large and powerful man, nestles his 4-year-old son close while telling him stories about "our people." Robinson spoke to Claud mainly in English, but sometimes in his first language, Chickasaw. To this day, Claud says he can remember fragments of some of the stories, and these are especially precious to him.

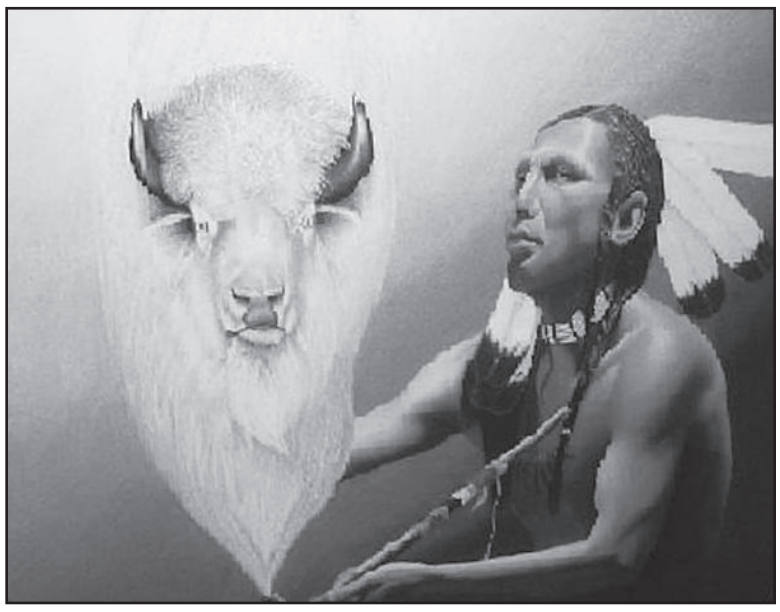
In another memory, he is a little boy sitting in a cotton or peanut field protected by the family's German Shepherd, while his father and mother work nearby, all day every day, picking the crop. When the dog died years later, Claud took it hard. He was closer to that dog than anyone else in his life.

In a third set of memories, which Claud has fused into one, he sees and hears his father coming home drunk, transformed into a strange, unpredictable man. And there is one remembrance that was especially confusing and scary to him. His mother, Effie, takes him to visit his father in the Stratford, Oklahoma, jail. Why can't he come home with us, the child wants to know. Effie doesn't answer.

Claud also recounts seeing his father lift up and move an outhouse. Then, he quickly adds that he didn't actually see this, only heard about it. He did see what was said to be the aftermath: his father, lying in bed throughout the night, restless with pain, bathed in sweat.

For years, Claud associated this terrible memory with the story about the outhouse. Later, he understood that his father's appendix had ruptured. He recalls bits and pieces of images of racing to get the huge, but by-then, helpless and soon-to-be lifeless man to the hospital.

"I remember at my dad's funeral," Claud says, "there was an overflow crowd at Criswell's [funeral home] in Ada. And, there was a second service at High Heel Church, where my grandfather Elum Johnson had been pastor. It was overflow there, too. I remember people



One of Claud's favorite paintings. He didn't know he had artistic talent until another inmate gave him painting supplies in 1985.

getting up one by one and speaking in Chickasaw about my father. He might have been a poor, uneducated laborer, but he also had stature and was a well respected member of the Chickasaw community. Knowing that has been worth a lot to me."

Two

In 1948, when Claud was 7, he learned about bigotry firsthand--and that his mother and step-dad would not stand up for him. On his first day of school, at the McGee school north of Stratford, the teacher told him--the only Native American in the class--to sit at the back of the room and leave the white children alone. On his way home, four older boys taunted and then beat him. "I thought, if this is being Indian, I don't want to be no Indian," he recalls.

Claud says his mother and step-dad, Sam Carney, ignored his pleas for intervention. In fact, Carney scarcely acknowledged the boy's existence. Sam made so little money that he was dispatched often by Effie to hunt rabbits with a .22 to put food on the table. Some days there was nothing to eat.

Somehow, Claud made it through the school year. But when he showed up for his first day of the second grade, he was told that he had failed first grade. The teacher told him to go home, that he wasn't wanted there.

After a year at a school near Yeager with a teacher who treated him "like a human being," the family moved near Center, where the boy was faced with another teacher who "hated Indians." On the first day, this teacher told the boy that he spelled his name Claud incorrectly. "When I said there is no 'e' at the end, he made me stand at the chalkboard and write my name over and over the 'correct' way.

Such bigoted attacks were part of Claud's early schooling. Although he adapted to get by, he occasionally rebelled by speaking Chickasaw in class—an offense he knew would get him a whipping.

Despite the humiliating obstacles in his path, Claud says he always liked learning and studying. Then, in high school, he had a teacher, Bessie Hatchett, who recognized his good qualities and encouraged him not just to hang in there but excel. Motivated, he wanted to show at least Mrs. Hatchett that he could do well. However, other teachers wanted to run him off. Sometimes, he got whippings for offenses that were not even specified.

Basketball was his refuge in the ninth grade. Big and tall like his father, he led Vanoss to a conference championship in the late 1950s, and was elected the school's freshman Basketball King. For the ceremony, he was required to wear a sport's coat and slacks, clothing he didn't own. Despite the Bureau of Indian Affairs' money that Effie received to help raise her son, she refused to purchase the needed clothing. Claud says he got work and bought himself a white sport's coat and pants. He later learned that he had inherited some cattle and horses from his grandfather. But this potential windfall also eluded the boy. He says Effie sold the animals and kept the money.

"I got to feeling like I was in a battle I couldn't win," Claud recalls. "Both at home and in school." So, he quit school, and as a response to the sale of his horses and cattle, convinced two other boys to help him steal two calves to take to the sale barn in Holdenville. The three were caught and arrested. The parents of the other boys got them released that day. But, Effie told the police to just keep Claud in jail. He says he spent four months in the Pontotoc County jail before his half-brother arrived and took him back to Kansas to live with him.

Despite Claud's anger, bitterness, poverty and lack of prospects, he says he had hope for a better life. He got married in 1962 in Kansas and he and Fern Johnson had two children. But he says her family never accepted Fern marrying an Indian, which eventually wrecked the marriage. Claud rebounded with another woman, Barbara White of Dodge City, Kansas, who bore his third and fourth children.

So by the mid-1960s, Claud had four children, but lacked the means to support them adequately. He worked, much as his father had, as a day laborer. Sometimes he was obliged to drive hundreds of miles to find good work. He was working on a dam in Del Rio, Texas, when he tore up a knee and returned to Ada in 1966.

Three

Claud met Floyd Mills, 32, in an Ada bar on April 25, 1966. Like Claud, Mills was a casual laborer. He had a wife and two children. They lived in Atoka, but Mills was in Ada looking for work. Claud told him he was about to return to a high-paying construction job working on a dam in Del Rio, Texas. Mills asked if he could go along, and after a few beers, persuaded Claud to accompany him to Del Rio starting that very night. After Claud assured Mills he had enough gas money to get them there, they drove to Effie's house near Center so that Claud could get his belongings.

Walking between the car and house, Claud says that Mills suddenly pulled a knife and demanded his money. Claud whipped out a .22 pistol and shot Mills in the leg. Mills dropped to his knees, and then a second shot dropped him for good. Johnson moved the body away from his mother's house and then drove to Del Rio, where he was later apprehended and returned to Ada to stand trial for murder.

Johnson pleaded not guilty. His court-appointed attorney, Barney Ward, called no witnesses for the defense, including Johnson himself, even after the coroner testified that Mills had been shot with two different guns. Claud didn't fail to notice that the jury was all white. They took about two hours to find him guilty and sentence him to life imprisonment. He was 25 years old. In prison at McAlester, he soon was notified that Fern had filed for divorce. He says he received no visitors or letters for seven years, and in his resigned "to my fate" mindset, didn't want any.

Four

After 11 years, Claud was paroled. He got a job with Chickasaw Industries and worked on the construction of the new Carl Albert Hospital in Ada. He mentions a well-known photo of Governor Overton James at the groundbreaking ceremony, wearing a hardhat and sitting on a bulldozer. Claud says he was just out of the frame telling Gov. James what levers to pull.

Despite what he had told the parole board, the 36-year-old was still not prepared to deal with life's obstacles on the outside. When his overture to "play a role" in the lives of his children was rebuffed, he married a second time, knew almost immediately it was a mistake and took off for the mountains of New Mexico, which he knew would get his parole revoked. He was caught and returned to prison.

By 1980, he was in a prison release program that enabled him to work outside, and strange as it may seem, own and drive

*See **Johnson,** page 45*

It is time once again to feature our Chickasaw High School Seniors!

The *Chickasaw Times* would like to congratulate each of you on your accomplishment by featuring you in our May 2008 issue.

Your biography and photo will appear in this special issue if you complete the form below and mail it to us with a photo no later than ***Tuesday, April 22, 2008.***

Senior Profile Form

Please include return address with photo

Name _____

Home town _____

High School _____

Parents/guardians _____
(If parents are deceased or divorced, please indicate)

Grandparents _____

Information about graduate *(include school activities, extracurricular activities, future plans, etc.)*

_____

_____

_____

_____

Please mail your completed form to
Chickasaw Times, P.O. Box 1548, Ada, OK 74821

HONOR YOUR GRADUATE

Metal Mayhem, continued from page 1

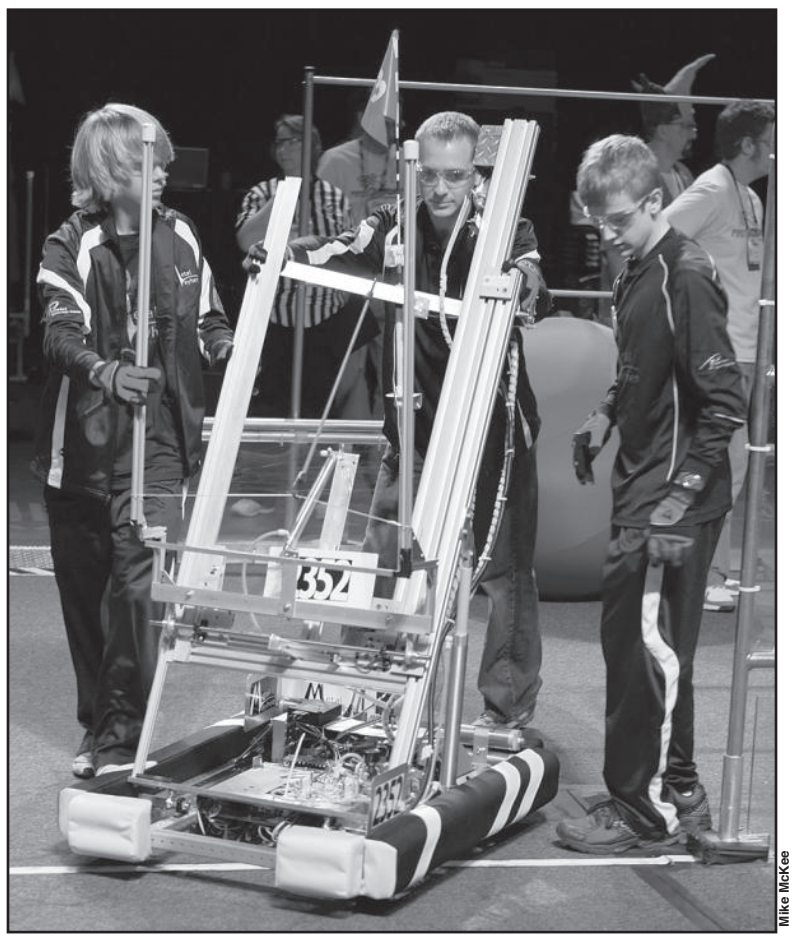
launching 10-pound balls over and through thresholds.

Metal Mayhem is sponsored by the Chickasaw Nation and Pontotoc Technology Center. The team consists of students and mentors from Ada area schools and businesses. Students and mentors teamed up to complete the six-week robotics project that involved designing and building a robot and competing in the FIRST Robotics Regional Competition.

Prior to the competition, a banquet was hosted Tuesday, March 11, recognizing Metal Mayhem team members for their hard work during the six-week robotics project. Governor Anoatubby and Chickasaw aviator and astronaut John Herrington were banquet speakers, wishing the team good luck at the competition.

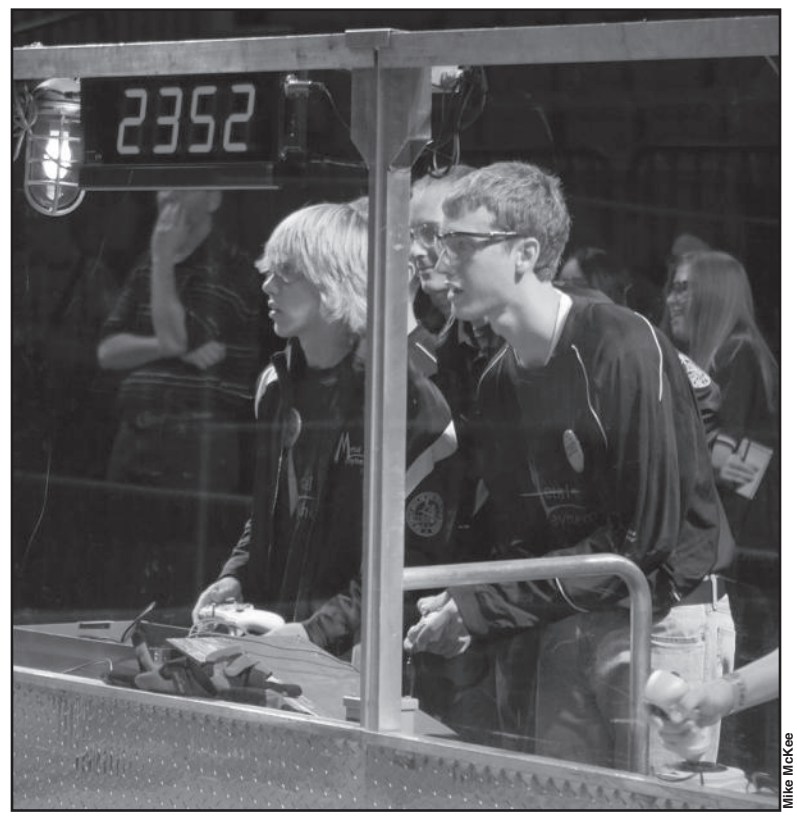
Metal Mayhem team members include Ada High School students Troy Norred, Matthew Beasley, Matthew Wright, Zac Dennis, Amber Huffman, Chantal Brown, Laura Medcalf, Candace Williams, Nikki Stepps, Darryl Mosier, Destiny Clark, Ryan Abbott and Anna Townsend; Byng High School students Garrett Thompson, Becca Sallee and Nathan Enns; Latta High School and Pontotoc Technology Center students Jeremy Wingard and Phillip Vogt; Stratford High School student Ethan Priddy; Tishomingo High School student Jacob Pittman; and Vanoss High School students Jessica Nail, Destiny Hatton, Tosha Taylor and Whitney Mowles.

Team mentors include Jim Lawson, Motorcycle Parts Company of Ada; Stan Townsend, Parson Engineering; Rhonda Medcalf, Ada High School; Lisa Thompson, Ada High School; Ty Moore, Pontotoc Technology Center; John Impson, Vanoss High School; Larry Cheatwood, Vanoss High School; Robbie Hatton, Hatton Enterprises; Chickasaw Nation mentors Marilyn Cotz, Louise Shields and Brian Rumburg; and Chickasaw Nation Division of Education Services staff members.



Mike McKee

Matthew Wright, Brian Rumburg and team leader Zac Dennis navigate the team robot from the obstacle course to the pit at the FIRST Robotics Regional Competition.



Mike McKee

Matthew Wright and Matthew Beasley look on as they control the Metal Mayhem robot during a FIRST Robotics Regional match at the Cox Convention Center in Oklahoma City.

The robotics project was formed through a national organization called FIRST, For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology. The mission of FIRST is to inspire young people to be science and technology leaders by engaging them in exciting mentor-based programs.

Through the robotics program, students gain audience, engineering and technology skills, inspire innovation and foster well-rounded life capabilities including self-confidence, communication and leadership.

For more information about the Metal Mayhem team, visit www.pontotoc.com/metalmayhem or contact the Chickasaw Nation Education Services director Lori Hamilton at (580) 421-7711.

Contributed by Brooke Tidwell, tribal media relations.

Agent Flickinger, continued from page 1

moted to undersheriff.

Flickinger also attended Drug Enforcement Agency School and the FBI Academy at Quantico, Virginia, where he earned the coveted Yellow Brick Road Award.

He earned a bachelor's degree in criminology from Southeastern Oklahoma State University, Durant, and maintained a 4.0 grade average.

"Agent Flickinger considered it an honor to serve his community and was well respected within the law enforcement community," said O'Neal.

That respect was apparent as officers from agencies across the state attended the funeral and wore black mourning ribbons across their badges.

A processional, estimated to be two miles long, was led by the Oklahoma Highway Patrol (OHP) motorcycle unit and consisted of at least 25 law-enforcement patrol units.

During the interment service at Linn Cemetery, members of the OHP and Oklahoma City Police Department Honor Guard fired a 21-gun salute. An Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics helicopter honored Flickinger with a fly-by during the graveside service.

A member of the Oklahoma City Police honor guard presented family members with the flag that draped the casket. Lighthorse Police officials presented the family with a shadow box containing Flickinger's photo, his name plate and a Lighthorse badge.

Members of the Lighthorse SWAT Team served as pallbearers.

Contributed by Dana Hudspeth, tribal media relations.

True or False?
Bank2 has home loans designed especially for Chickasaws?
It's TRUE,
but is Bank2 your bank too?
Bank2 has a lending team strictly devoted to meeting the needs of Chickasaws. Some banks claim to serve Chickasaws; at Bank2 we are Chickasaw – we're owned 100% by the Chickasaw Nation. Shouldn't your next home loan be with us?
Learn more at www.bank2.biz or call us today at 1-877-409-2265.
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Twice the Bank
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Minutes, continued from page 2

The motion to approve GR25-019 carried unanimously.

General Resolution Number GR 25-020, Gubernatorial Appointment – Chickasaw Nation Election Commission, Ms. Catherine Wood

This resolution approves Governor Bill Anoatubby's reappointment of Ms. Catherine

Wood to the Chickasaw Nation Election Commission.

A motion was made by Ms. Green and seconded by Mr. Woods to approve GR25-020.

Members voting yes: Beth Alexander, Katie Case, Scott Colbert, Tim Colbert, Holly Easterling, Mary Jo Green, Dean McManus, Judy Goforth Parker, Wanda Blackwood Scott, David Woerz, Steve Woods

11 yes votes

The motion to approve GR25-020 carried unanimously.

General Resolution Number GR 25-021, Gubernatorial Appointment to the Board of Directors of the Chickasaw Nation Industries, Inc., Mr. Bob Engle

This resolution approves Governor Bill Anoatubby's reappointment of Mr. Bob Engle to the Board of Directors of Chickasaw Nation Industries, Inc. Article IV of the Articles of Incorporation issued by the Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior provides that the terms of office of each board member shall be three years. Mr. Bob Engle will fill a three-year term of office ending on October 1, 2010.

A motion was made by Mr. Woods and seconded by Ms. Green to approve GR25-021.

Members voting yes: Beth Alexander, Katie Case, Scott Colbert, Tim Colbert, Holly Easterling, Mary Jo Green, Dean McManus, Judy Goforth Parker, Wanda Blackwood Scott, David Woerz, Steve Woods

11 yes votes

The motion to approve GR25-021 carried unanimously.

General Resolution Number GR 25-022, Gubernatorial Appointment to the Board of Directors of the Chickasaw Nation Industries, Inc., Mr. Marvin Mitchell

This resolution approves Governor Bill Anoatubby's reappointment of Mr. Marvin Mitchell to the Board of Directors of Chickasaw Nation Industries, Inc. Article IV of the Articles of Incorporation issued by the Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior provides that the terms of office of each board member shall be three years. Mr. Marvin Mitchell will fill a term of office ending on October 1, 2010.

A motion was made by Mr. Woods and seconded by Ms. Case to approve GR25-022.

Members voting yes: Beth Alexander, Katie Case, Scott Colbert, Tim Colbert, Holly Easterling, Mary Jo Green, Dean McManus, Judy Goforth Parker, Wanda Blackwood Scott, David Woerz, Steve Woods

11 yes votes

The motion to approve GR25-022 carried unanimously.

General Resolution Number GR 25-023, Gubernatorial Appointment to the Board of Directors of the Chickasaw Nation Industries, Inc., Mr. Neal McCaleb

This resolution approves Governor Bill Anoatubby's reappointment of Mr. Neal McCaleb to the Board of Directors of Chickasaw Nation Industries, Inc. Article IV of the Articles of Incorporation issued by the Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior provides that the terms of office of each board member shall be three years. Mr. Neal McCaleb will fill a term of office ending on October 01, 2009

A motion was made by Ms. McManus and seconded by Mr. Woerz to approve GR25-023.

Members voting yes: Beth Alexander, Katie Case, Scott Colbert, Tim Colbert, Holly Easterling, Mary Jo Green, Dean McManus, Judy Goforth Parker, Wanda Blackwood Scott, David Woerz, Steve Woods

11 yes votes

The motion to approve GR25-023 carried unanimously.

General Resolution Number GR 25-024, Gubernatorial Appointment to the Board of Directors of the Chickasaw Nation Industries, Inc., Mr. Brian Campbell

This resolution approves Governor Bill Anoatubby's reappointment of Mr. Brian Campbell to the Board of Directors of Chickasaw Nation Industries, Inc. Article IV of the Articles of Incorporation issued by the Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior provides that the terms of office of each board member shall be three years. Mr. Brian Campbell will fill a term of office ending on October 01, 2009.

A motion was made by Ms McManus and seconded by Mr. Woerz to approve GR25-024.

Members voting yes: Beth Alexander, Katie Case, Scott Colbert, Tim Colbert, Holly Easterling, Mary Jo Green, Dean McManus, Judy Goforth Parker, Wanda Blackwood Scott, David Woerz, Steve Woods

11 yes votes

The motion to approve GR25-024 carried unanimously.

Ms. McManus concluded her report.

(D) LAND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT by Committee Chair Judy Goforth Parker

Chairperson Pro Tempore Goforth Parker asked Mr. Woerz to present the Land Development Committee Report.

General Resolution Number 25-016, Authorization for Acquisition of Property in Johnston County

This resolution approves the Chickasaw Nation's request to acquire real property adjacent to the Chickasaw Nation Capitol in Tishomingo, Oklahoma, for the expansion of the property.

A motion was made by Mr. Woerz and seconded by Mrs. Alexander to approve GR25-016.

Members voting yes: Beth Alexander, Katie Case, Scott Colbert, Tim Colbert, Holly Easterling, Mary Jo Green, Dean McManus, Judy Goforth Parker, Wanda Blackwood Scott, David Woerz, Steve Woods

11 yes votes

The motion to approve GR25-016 carried unanimously.

General Resolution Number 25-017, Authorization for Acquisition of Property in Johnston County

This resolution approves the Chickasaw Nation's request to acquire real property, in Tishomingo, Johnston County, Oklahoma, adjacent to the Chickasaw Nation Capitol Tishomingo, Oklahoma for expansion of the property.

A motion was made by Mr. Woerz and seconded by Mrs. Alexander to approve GR25-017.

Members voting yes: Beth Alexander, Katie Case, Scott Colbert, Tim Colbert, Holly Easterling, Mary Jo Green, Dean McManus, Judy Goforth Parker, Wanda Blackwood Scott, David Woerz, Steve Woods

11 yes votes

The motion to approve GR25-017 carried unanimously.

General Resolution Number 25-018, Authorization for Acquisition of Property in Johnston County

This resolution approves the Chickasaw Nation's request to acquire real property, in Tishomingo, Johnston County, Oklahoma, adjacent to the Chickasaw Nation Capitol for expansion of the property.

A motion was made by Mr. Woerz and seconded by Mrs. Alexander to approve GR25-018.

Members voting yes: Beth Alexander, Katie Case, Scott Colbert, Tim Colbert, Holly Easterling, Mary Jo Green, Dean McManus, Judy Goforth Parker, Wanda Blackwood Scott, David Woerz, Steve Woods

11 yes votes

The motion to approve GR25-018 carried unanimously.

Mr. Woerz concluded his report.

(E) EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT by Committee Chair Wanda Blackwood Scott

No report.

(F) HEALTH CARE COMMITTEE REPORT by Committee Chair Mary Jo Green

Ms. Green stated her Health Care Report will be in the *Chickasaw Times*.

(G) HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL COMMITTEE REPORT by Committee Chair Scott Colbert

No report.

AGENDA ITEM #7
NEW BUSINESS (Comments from Citizens)

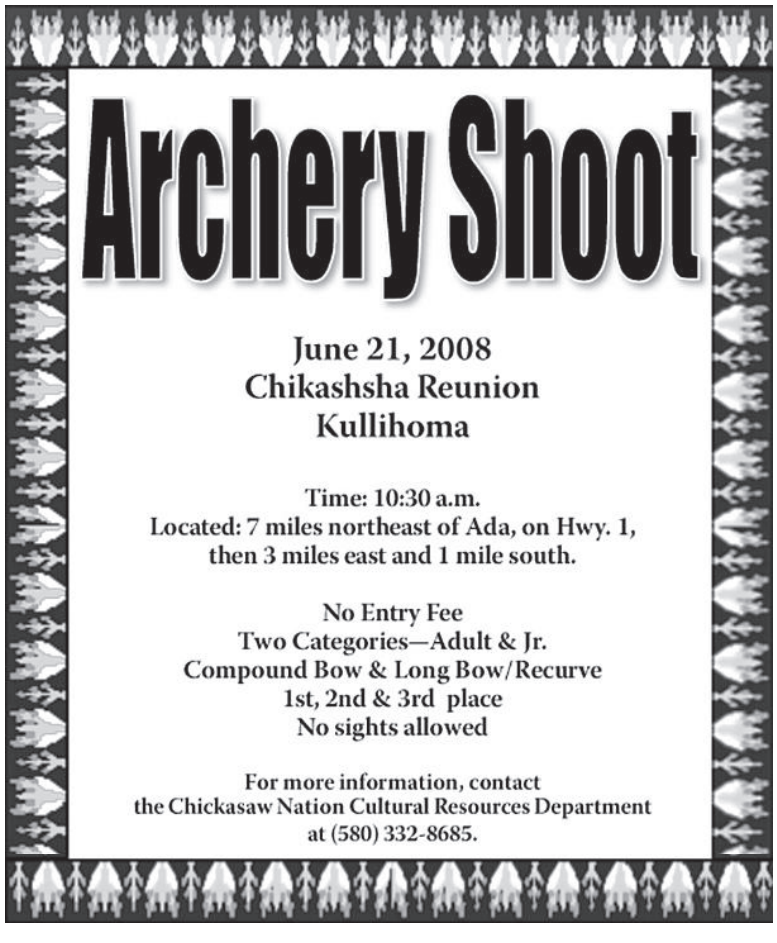
There were no comments from the citizens.

AGENDA ITEM #8
ADJOURNMENT

The Legislative Session adjourned at 9:32 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Holly Easterling, Secretary Pro Tempore Chickasaw Tribal Legislature
Prepared by: Doretta Sellers, Recording Secretary

Chickasaw Tribal Legislature


Archery Shoot
June 21, 2008
Chikashsha Reunion
Kullihoma
Time: 10:30 a.m.
Located: 7 miles northeast of Ada, on Hwy. 1,
then 3 miles east and 1 mile south.
No Entry Fee
Two Categories—Adult & Jr.
Compound Bow & Long Bow/Recurve
1st, 2nd & 3rd place
No sights allowed
For more information, contact
the Chickasaw Nation Cultural Resources Department
at (580) 332-8685.

Johnson, continued from page 41

a car. One day he drove that car to Cheyenne, Wyoming, where he secured a good-paying construction job. He then drove to Montana, worked there awhile and then drove to Arizona, a state with sights he had always wanted to see. When he had seen them, he called the law in Oklahoma and told them where he'd be. "I just didn't like being a fugitive," Claud says.

Back in prison, Claud's luck and life changed in 1985. Older (now 44) and wiser, he sought out tribal elders, both inmates and visitors, for advice and counsel. One visting elder's words had a profound effect on him: "You only make this journey once, and any good you can do along the way, you should." The elder was Jack Thorpe, the son of legendary athlete Jim Thorpe.

Why was this simple advice so important to him? Maybe it was because his life was simultaneously changing in another way that complemented and enriched his new thinking. A fellow Native American inmate, who had served his time, gave his art supplies to Claud, who had wondered if might have artistic talent. He was amazed to discover that he did. His paintings, leatherwork and beadwork were judged to be excellent, especially for a beginner. He considered discovering this latent talent to be a very positive sign from the spirit world.

Claud combined his passion for making art involving Indian themes or subjects with memories of Chickasaw stories from his relatives and even fragments from his long-dead father, Robinson Johnson. Soon, some of his paintings were being sold at the prison gift shop and he was selected to paint two large murals at the prison rodeo grounds in McAlester. His attitude and well-being improved markedly, and he was living a more spiritual life with the help of other elders. He thought if he could convey these positive factors persuasively to the parole board, he might earn another shot at redemption outside the prison walls.

Five

When Claud was transferred in 1994 to the Joseph Harp Correctional Center in Lexington, OK, he assumed a leadership position in the Confined Inter-Tribal Group. They meet once a week to pray and chant accompanied by a drum made for them by Chickasaw-Seminole Tim Harjo. Every other week, they have a sweat lodge ceremony. Just as importantly, they plan activities to support one another and hold seminars for visiting at-risk Indian youth.

Students from the Chickasaw Nation's Carter Seminary came once a few years ago, says Claud. "We've helped many young inmates, some who were cold and hard, learn their traditional ways and straighten themselves out. We've also gotten through to some confused, troubled young boys who in time would have wound up here. "It's a great feeling to know that we've helped some of these Indian kids. We level with them about what it's like in here and I pass along traditional tribal knowledge and stories that I learned from Chickasaws like a medicine woman who my uncle took me to meet when I was 14.

He also began corresponding and meeting with pen pal Norma Cafky. They fell in love and were married in 1988. This coincided with the death of his mother, Effie. As a result, Claud finally felt free to tell Norma the truth about the death of Floyd Mills back in 1966.

Late that night, after Claud shot Mills in the leg, Effie ran out on the porch, and thinking Claud had been shot, fired a single shot from her .25 pistol at Mills. He was struck in the neck and died almost immediately. Claud yelled at his mother that she had always been wanting to kill someone, and "now you've done it!" Nevertheless, he hid the body and disposed of Effie's .25. Before the trial, Claud decided, in effect, to take the rap for his mother by telling her to keep quiet and the attorney not to let her testify. Still, she could have told authorities the truth. But when she didn't, that left Claud as the only suspect because he was the last person seen with Mills before he died.

If Norma doubted the story, she cleared it up, at Claud's suggestion, by going to visit Bessie Hatchett, the teacher who had befriended and encouraged Claud. Mrs. Hatchett told Norma that Effie--shortly before her death--had admitted killing Mills because she thought Claud had been wounded. Norma arranged for Claud's old lawyer, Barney Ward, to obtain a written deposition from Mrs. Hatchett, dated March 22, 1990. Years later, after Norma reluctantly divorced Claud at her family's insistence, she obtained a written statement from Barbara White (the mother of Claud's two youngest children). She wrote that Effie had told her that she had killed the man to protect Claud, who "was taking the blame for it."

These sworn statements and letters of recommendation for parole have been placed in Claud's file. One of the letters was written by Rick Ewing, his councilor at Joseph Harp during the past five years. Ewing says Claud is no longer a threat to anyone, if he ever was. Furthermore, he admires and respects the work Claud has accomplished for Native people one-on-one and through the Confined Inter-Tribal Group (CITG). In fact, the prison awarded him a "certificate of appreciation" last January for his long-time dedicated service to the CITG.

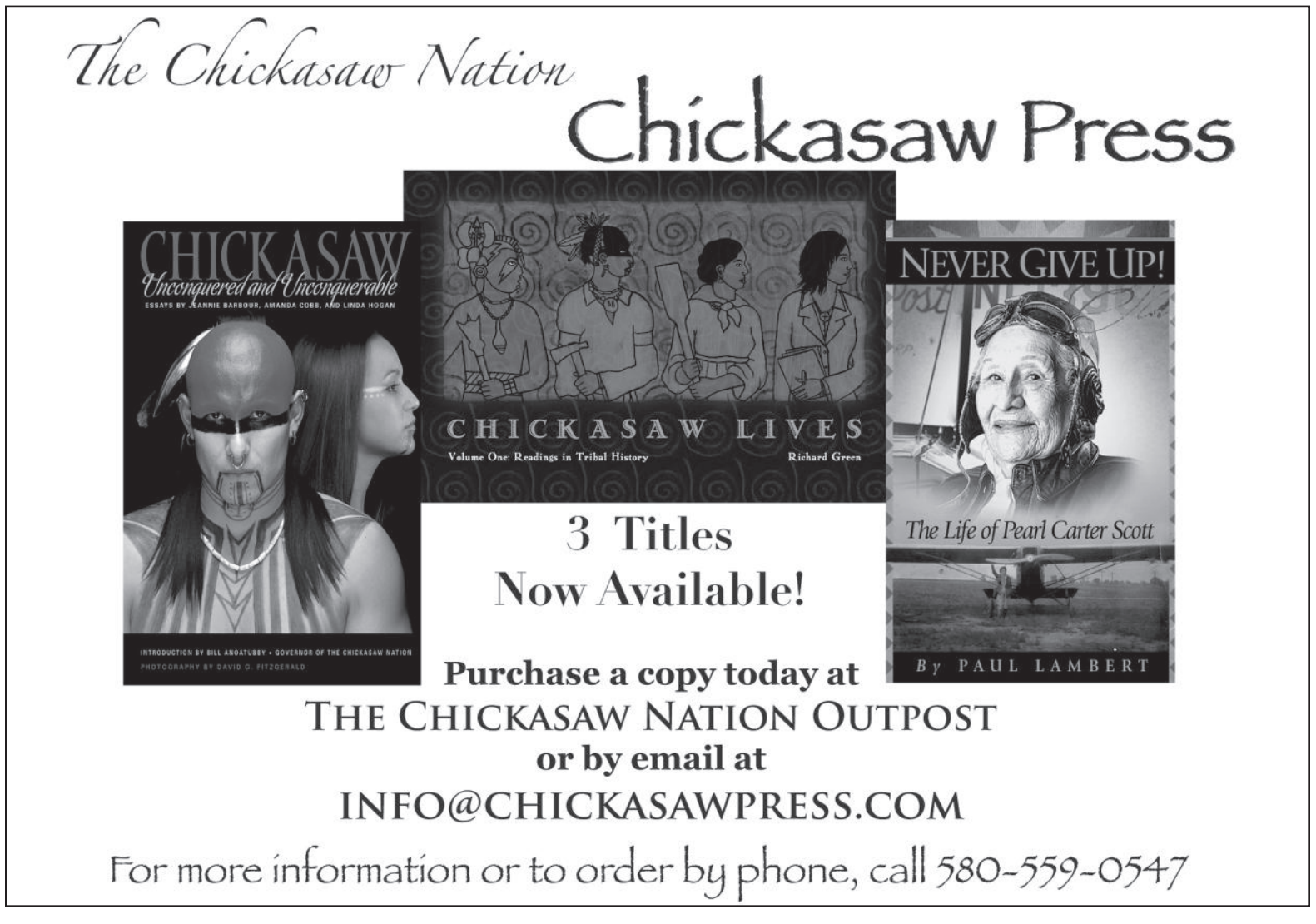
Such support has garnered a positive vote for Claud from the Parole Board in recent years, but no governor has been willing to sign the paper. Ewing says Oklahoma is one of a small and dwindling number of states to still require the governor's signature for a parole. "Signing paroles in Oklahoma is not politically advantageous, but denying them is," says Ewing.

Within the past year, Claud learned that his borderline diabetes has tipped the wrong way and the poor circulation in his legs makes walking painful and precarious. He realizes he may die in prison, but still hopes to be freed to spend whatever time he has left getting better acquainted with family and persuading Native Americans to say "no more" to alcohol and drugs and to walk what he calls "the red path of our traditional ways."

Claud believes the Creator puts everyone on earth for a reason. He has struggled more than most to find his reason. But more than 20 years ago, elders directed him to the red path, and he has felt obliged to help those who are lost and those who are still searching.

The End

Readers may contact Richard Green at 405-947-5020 or rgreen26@cox.net.


The Chickasaw Nation
Chickasaw Press
CHICKASAW
Unconquered and Unconquerable
ESSAYS BY JEANNIE BARBOUR, AMANDA COBB, AND LINDA HOGAN
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Dorothy Maye Gold-Tisdell

Graveside services for Dorothy Maye Gold-Tisdell, 72, Ada, Okla., were March 26, 2008 at Centrahoma (OK) Cemetery with Rev. Keith Taylor officiating.

Mrs. Gold-Tisdell died March 23, 2008 at a local hospital. She was born Jan. 19, 1936 at Harden City, Okla., to Thomas and Lora Maye Owens Morgan. She attended Jesse schools.

Mrs. Gold-Tisdell was a homemaker and a member of the Pentecostal Holiness Church.

She is survived by eight sons, Billy Gold and wife, Vicky, Jacky Gold and wife Debbie, J.W. Gold, Michael Gold and wife Janis, Tony Gold and wife Shalene, and Clayton Tisdell and wife, Cindy, all of Ada, Tommy Morgan and wife, Shirley of Centrahoma, and William Gold of Tupelo; and five daughters, Keeva Ward, Retha Hurt, Vonda Ward and husband, Jamie, and Lorri Brown, all of Ada, and Dottie Thacker, Wenatchee, Wash.

She was preceded in death by her parents; two husbands, Jack Gold and Willard Tisdell; and two sons, Ronnie Dale Gold and an infant son.

Bearers were Jerry Daffern, Gary Daffern, Danny Daffern, David Daffern, Dennis Thurman and Jay Ward.

Thomas Taylor

Thomas (Tommy) Taylor, 73, died Feb. 15, 2008. He was born Sept. 15, 1934 to Rosie (Daniels) and John Cecil Taylor. Services were Feb. 19, 2008 at Brown's Funeral Home, Atoka, Okla. Burial followed at Rose Hill Cemetery, Wapanucka, Okla.

Mr. Taylor attended the Olney (OK) Public School System. For several years he worked on dairy farms in southern Kansas but later worked in oil fields around the world. He retired after 38 years working his way up from floor hand to tool pusher. He loved to see how other countries lived and never tired of learning about them as these countries longed to learn about Chickasaw Indians. He was always very proud of the Ayakatubby blood flowing through his veins.

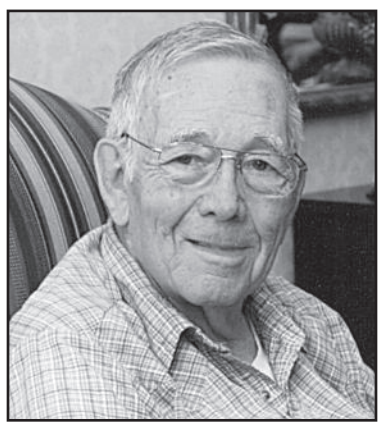
He married Leona (Reed) in 1953 and this couple had five children, Glenda Galvan, of Ada, Okla., Sharon Strecker, of Spearville, Kan., Gary Taylor (deceased 1989), Sharla McCurry, of Coalgate, Okla., and Loretta Taylor, of Coalgate.

In 1977 he married Jessie E. McCarty and helped raise her three children, Eddie McCarty, of Atoka, Okla., Terry McCarty, of Stringtown, Okla., and Debra Johnston, of Stringtown, Okla.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Cecil and Rosie Taylor; a son, Gary; brothers, Albert and Jack Taylor; and a sister, Alice Reed.

He will forever be remembered for his sense of humor and his love for life. He never met a stranger and was one of the most interesting people to talk to, leaving a legacy of spirited discussions and great stories. A seasoned warrior of life, his accepting approach, courage and readiness in facing death is reassuring to anyone who might fear their own mortality.

Kenneth Adcock



Kenneth B Adcock, 81, died Feb. 24, 2008 in Fort Worth. Services were Feb. 28 at Coffey-Murray Funeral Home Chapel, Durant, Okla. Interment was at Mead Cemetery, Mead, Okla.

Mr. Adcock was born Aug. 1, 1927 at Healdton, Okla., and grew up in Durant, Okla.

In 19955 he became a Fort Worth Police office retiring after 29 years of service in 1985. During this time he was also a member of the Navy Reserve retiring after 20 years as a Chief Petty Officer-electronics technician using his skills as a ham radio operator, W5RWP. During a break in service from the police department, he owned and operated Ken's Key Shop for many years in Sansom Park, Texas and Fort Worth. He was a 45-yeard member of IOOF Lodge 251, a life member of the Masonic Ledge and Knights Templar. After retirement he returned to Durant where he lived until 2006 moving back to Fort Work.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Orion and Lola Adcock; brothers, Thomas, Orion T, James and Charles; and wife, Karen.

He is survived by his children, Marilyn Johnson and husband Charles of Kerrville, Texas, Edward of Ft. Worth, James of Hydro, Okla., Cynthia Smith and husband, Mark of Fort Worth; an aunt, Tula Le Tourneau of Durant; brother, Eugene of Wylie, Texas; and a sister, Virginia Cox of Collage Station, Texas; seven grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; numerous nieces and nephews; long time friend, Jean Turnbull; and many friends and acquaintances.

Thelma Turner Jackson

Thelma Turner Jackson, 94, of Durant, Okla., died March 6, 2008 at the Medical Center of Southeastern Oklahoma with family members at her side. Funeral services were March 10, 2008 at the First Baptist Church, Durant, with burial in Highland Cemetery.

She was born March 30, 1913, on her mother's allotment land in Yarnaby, Okla., the only daughter of James Albert and Margaret Virginia (Connelly) Turner. Both Thelma's mother and grandfather, John William Connelly, were original Dawes Commission enrollees.

Thelma attended grade school at Connelly, in southern Bryan (OK) County, on land donated by her grandfather and graduated from Yuba (OK) High School in the spring of 1931.

She married Clyde W. Jackson the following September and they were married for 61 years before he died in 1993.

Thelma was known for her kind and generous spirit and was happiest when making others feel welcome in her home. She was fond of sewing, baking, gardening, reading her bible and visiting with family and friends. She was an active member of the Durant First Baptist Church for many years until failing health intervened. She was also very proud of her Chickasaw heritage and passed on that legacy to her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband; parents; brothers, Furman, Fred, Troy and Harle Turner; and a granddaughter Beverly Hankins.

She is survived by a son, Don (Peggy) Jackson, Ingram, Texas; daughters, Margaret Sandlin, Birmingham, Ala., Linda (Ron) Markin, Tyler, Texas, Mary Sue (Ted Wendt) Jackson, Modesto, Calif.; 12 grandchildren; 17 great grandchildren; sister-in-law Betty Jackson, Oklahoma City and many loving nieces and nephews.

Memorial remembrances may be sent to the Thelma and Clyde Jackson Endowed Scholarship at Southeastern Oklahoma State University Foundation, 1404 N. Fourth Ave., Durant, OK, or the Durant First Baptist Church.

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Larry D. McNeill

Funeral services for Larry D. McNeill, 60, were March 10, 2008 at the Abundant Love Fellowship with Danny Gamble officiating. Burial followed at the Mt. Olive Cemetery, Healdton, Okla. He died March 6, 2008 at Baptist Integris Hospital, Oklahoma City.

Mr. McNeill was born July 6, 1947 in Duncan, Okla., to Herbert and Venita Eaves McNeill.

He grew up in the Fox, Okla., area and graduated from Fox High School in 1965. He worked as a pipeline welder. He enjoyed his family and grandchildren, hunting, fishing, watching television and was a great fan of science fiction shows.

All of the family knew "The Remote was his". He served for a time in the Oklahoma National Guard. He married Donna Allen Denney on June 19, 1993 at Healdton, Okla.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and a brother.

He is survived by his wife, Donna, of the home southwest of Maysville, Okla.; four sons, Dwain McNeill of Maysville, Darren McNeill and wife, Stacy of Paden, Okla., Dusty McNeill and wife, Toni, of Ardmore, Okla., and Todd Denney and wife, Jymme Dawn of Overbrook, Okla.; a brother, Randy McNeill of Minden, La.; two sisters, Sharon Staggs and Tammie McNeill, both of Minden, La.; 12 grandchildren, Jeff, Levi, Blayze, Taylor, Madison, Hannah, Chas, Austin and Mallori McNeill and Lara, Gracie and Trent Denney.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to The American Lung Association or your favorite charity.

Aaron Alford Brown

Aaron Alford Brown, 48, of Ada, Okla., died Dec. 29, 2007. He was born Feb. 28, 1959 in Oklahoma County to Alford Brown and Lawana Kent-Brown. Services were Jan. 4, 2008 at the Otoe-Missouria Cultural Center. Burial followed at the Otoe-Missouria Cemetery.

He attended Concho Indian School in El Reno, Chilocco Indian School and graduated from Fort Sill Indian School at Lawton, Okla., in 1976. He was previously employed as a baker.

Mr. Brow was a member of the Chickasaw Nation and a descendent of the Otoe-Missouria-Iowa tribe and member of the Buffalo Clan.

He was a heavyweight-boxing contender for 12 years and went by the fighting name of Indian Aaron Brown. His boxing days took him to several foreign countries and faced many formidable world class champions like Wimpy Halstead, Tommy Morrison and Tex Cobb. He was a member of the Athletic Christian Association.

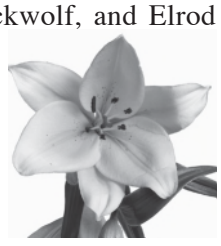
His greatest enjoyment was his children.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Gail and Nina Kent; his parents; and a twin sister, Karon Brown Lowe.

He is survived by his three children, Rachel Brown, Aaron Ray Brown and Regina Brown; six sisters, Lou Brown, Suzette Ayala, Velvet Brown, Beverly Manley, Jami Warledo and Denise Bible; a brother, Michael Eric Brown; an aunt, Melba Kent-Warledo; and several grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Bearers were Jonas Manley, Jr., Terrance Manley, Vernon Manley, Adrian Brown, Michael Brown and Ronnie Bible.

Honorary bearers were Collier Kent, Aaron Ray Brown, Jonas Manley, Sr., Clint Bible, Robert Phil Harris, Sr., Robert Phil Harris, Jr., Joe Jones, James Bible, Mickey Pratt-Wierwakee, Donnie Blackwolf, and Elrod Monessey.



Wanda Marie Alexander

Services for Wanda Marie Alexander, 75, Ada, were March 14, 2008 at Criswell Funeral Home Chapel, the Revs. Jeff Frazier and Sharron Meyers officiating. Burial follows at Steedman Cemetery. Mrs. Alexander died Monday, March 10, 2008, at a local hospital. She was born Nov. 26, 1932, at Kullihoma to John H. Walker and Cecelia Johnson Walker.

She attended school at Kullihoma Grade School and Haskell High School. She was a certified nurse's aide and home health provider. She retired from Ballard Nursing Center in Ada. She was affiliated with Wanette (OK) Pentecostal Holiness Church. She married Jim Alexander Aug. 24, 1964, at Sulphur, Okla. He preceded her in death on Jan. 24, 1995, in Oklahoma City.

She was preceded in death by two brothers, Jimmy Walker and Edwin Alexander; grandson, Jesse Tatum Jr.; and a great-grandson, Daniel Lee Tatum. She is survived by companion and longtime friend, Henry James; four daughters, Lawanna Arnold, Ada; Ramona Willis and husband William, Norman, Okla.,; Juanita Tatum and husband Jesse, Ada; and Quanna Alexander, Oklahoma City; three sons, Melvin Alexander Sr., Ada; Alvin Alexander Sr. and wife Madelyn, Ada; and Marvin Alexander Sr. and wife Cheryl, Blanchard, Okla.,; seven sisters, Louise Marrs, Ada; Viola Jim, Shawnee, Okla.,; Charlene Vasquez, Ada; Norma Johnson, Oklahoma City; Irene Banks, Ada; Deloris Alexander, Midwest City, Okla., ; and Darlene Eckiuaudah, Cyril, Okla.; two brothers, Dean Walker, Dallas, and Bill Alexander, Amber, Okla.; 19 grandchildren, Melvin Alexander Jr., Ladana Ahrens, Tracy Rieves, Stephanie Weiland, Marvin Alexander Jr., Erica Factor, Kandice Alexander, Crystal Tatum, Cody Tatum, Michael Alexander, Albert Alexander, Ashley Alexander, Jason Smith, Alvin Alexander Jr., Shawn Alexander, Cassandra Alexander, Diane Alexander, Christy Alexander and Rita Alexander; 40 great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by two brothers, Jimmy Walker and Edwin Alexander; grandson, Jesse Tatum Jr.; and a great-grandson, Daniel Lee Tatum.

Bearers are Cody Tatum, Albert Alexander, Alvin Alexander Jr., Chris Ahrens, Brad Weiland and Zach Rieves. Honorary bearers are Jesse Tatum Sr., Michael Markcum and Eugene Marrs Jr.

Tommie D. Cheadle Kline

Graveside services for Tommie D. Cheadle Kline, 90, Ada, Okla., were Feb. 9, 2008 at Swan Hill Cemetery, the Rev. Bill Frazier will officiate. Chickasaw Honor Guard conducted military honors at the cemetery.

Mrs. Kline died Tuesday, Feb. 5, 2008, at a local nursing home. She was born Dec. 22, 1917, near Milburn, Okla., to Tom and Ethel Helms Cheadle.

She graduated from Chilocco Indian School, near Newkirk in 1937. She then started to college at Murray State in Tishomingo. She left Murray State College and began working for Boeing Aircraft Company in Wichita, Kan., for a few years. She enlisted in the U.S. Navy Feb. 1, 1944 and served until 1945. She was a pharmacist's mate, 3rd Class Petty Officer when she was honorably discharged. She resumed her college education and graduated from Oklahoma College for Women in Chickasha, Okla., in 1950. Her major was home economics. She was a school teacher for several years in Shattuck.

Mrs. Kline was employed as a dietician in the Veteran's Hospital in North Little Rock, Ark., in 1965. She and her family moved to Ada in 1980 and she began working for Carl Albert Indian Hospital. She was the first dietician at Carl Albert Indian Hospital.

She married Gene Kline June 22, 1954, in Stattuck. He died Aug. 27, 2003.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband; and two sisters, Georgia Alexander and Shineesta Williams.

Survivors include one brother, Overton "Buck" Cheadle, Ada; two sisters, Julia Byrd, Ada, and Frances Bean, Wayland, Iowa; and several nieces and nephews.

Note of thanks

We want to thank all our friends and family for the many prayers, notes and calls of encouragement and love shown during the passing of our dad, grandpa, uncle and nephew, Tom (Tommy) Taylor. Special thanks to Drs. Berger and Gaddy and everyone in med/surg and E.R. for the many times you went that "extra mile" for Dad. Many thanks to Kelley Lunsford and Regina Berna for allowing me to take extended leave to be at his side. May the Lord bless and keep you and yours!

The family of Tommy Taylor

Note of thanks

The family of Aaron Brown acknowledges all the services that different Chickasaw tribal agencies and departments provided while he lived in Ada. That he led a life like none other and he will be missed. God Bless the continuation of the Chickasaw people and staff who provide patient and supportive care for our family members.

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Robert Patrick Flickinger

Robert Patrick Flickinger, 37 of Cumberland Cove, Okla. died March 7, 2008. He was born August 11, 1970 at Ft. Worth, Texas to Robert Flickinger and Jeanie Garlett Flickinger.

He graduated from W.E. Boswell High School in Saginaw, Texas and later served in the U. S. Navy attached to Sea Bees.

He joined the Marshall County Sheriffs department where he worked as a jailer shortly after his daughter was born. He attended C.L.E.E.T. Academy and became a deputy sheriff and attended Southeastern State University to pursue a degree in criminology. He maintained a 4.0 average and was placed in the National Honor Society book of students maintaining a 4.0 average. Officer Flickinger also attend DEA School and the FBI Academy at Quantico, Virginia where he earned the coveted Yellow Brick Road Award.

He worked his way up to being the under sheriff for the Marshall County Sheriff's Department.

Officer Flickinger was hired with the Chickasaw Nation's Lighthorse Police Department on Sept. 27, 2004. He was promoted to a Special Agent on October 15, 2007 and was assigned to work narcotics enforcement. Officer Flickinger was a member of the Lighthorse Police Scuba-Dive Team and Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Team. He considered it an honor to serve his community and listed on his resume his personal goal was to maintain integrity in order to be a positive role model to his daughter and community.

He attended the Assembly of God church in Madill where he was very active on the Praise Team and in the Young Adult Class. Officer Flickinger enjoyed life and lived it to the fullest no matter where he was or what he was doing. He was first and foremost a Christian and a caring loving father.

He is survived by his daughter, Cheyenne Flickinger, Russellville, Tenn.; his parents Robert and Jeanie Flickinger, Blue Mound, Texas; his grandmother Vesta Garlett, Madill, Okla.; brothers, Chris Flickinger, Ft. Worth, Michael Flickinger, Blue Mound; and numerous great-aunts, great uncles and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his grandfather, C. R. Garlett; grandparents, Leslie and Ethel Flickinger; an aunt, Nancy Yow; great-grandparents, Charles and Anna Garlett; a great-aunt, Nadine Knipe; a great-uncle Neil Garlett; and a cousin, Bobby Lee Garlett.

Funeral services were March 12, 2008 at Watts Funeral Home, Madill. Pastor Weldon Wright officiated the service. Interment was at Linn Cemetery, Linn, Okla.

Condolences may be sent to wattsfuneralhome.com.

Casket Bearers were the Lighthorse SWAT Team.

Honorary bearers were members of the Lighthorse Police Department, Lee Gamble, Brandon Burchfield, Caleb Castleman, Terry Burchfield, Preston Yow, Chris Flickinger, and Michael Flickinger.

Doris Inez Kent

Doris Inez Kent, 84, died Feb. 27, 2008 at a the Ponca City Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. Mrs. Kent was a longtime resident of Newkirk, Okla., and formerly of Coalgate, Okla.

She was born Sept. 1, 1923 at Oklahoma City to Abe Ned and Lena Bertha (Carr) Ned, original enrollees of the Choctaw and Chickasaw tribes.

Mrs. Kent attended a rural school and worked on the family farm. After completing her education she began working in convalescent and nursing homes as an aide.

In 1940 she married Edmond Hampton at Coalgate and they established their first home there. After his death she moved with their two sons to Arizona. It was then that she met and married Dick Crawford at Phoenix. After their son and daughter were born, they returned to Oklahoma and lived in Ada, later moving to Pauls Valley, Okla., where Mr. Crawford died.

In 1970 she moved to Oklahoma City and in 1974 she married Aaron Kent. They made their home in Newkirk.

Mrs. Kent worked in nursing homes and convalescent homes in the different areas where she lived. She was employed by the Newkirk Nursing Center for several years before becoming employed by the Department of Human Services as a home provider. She retired in 1994 due to ill health.

She was a member of Calvary Temple of Newkirk and the American Legion Auxiliary in Arkansas City. She enjoyed camping and fishing, cooking, reading, and especially spending time with her grandchildren. She had a dry, funny wit with her sense of humor.

She was preceded in death by her husbands; her parents; a brother, George Ned; and a sister, Maxine Ned.

She is survived by four children, Dennis Crawford of Newkirk, Lynn Bebout of Wynnewood, Jim Hampton of Deer Creek, and Don Hampton of Tallahassee, Fla.; her siblings, Nina Johnston and Ozellia Dayton, both of Coalgate, Edith Moobs of Atoka, Okla., John Ned of Las Vegas, and Betty Perrier of Shawnee, Okla.; 12 grandchildren; several great-grandchildren; and numerous nephews and nieces.

Following her request, she was cremated. A memorial service was March 9, 2008 at the Choctaw Meeting House at Coalgate with the Rev. Bill Weathers officiating.

Pat Beach

Pat Beach died March 25, 2008 at her home south of Apache, Okla. She was born Aug. 20, 1926 to Joe and Elsie (Hawkins) Harper at Ellsworth, Okla. She grew up in Purcell, Okla., and moved to the Apache area in 1973.

She was a member of the Edgewater Park Firefighters Auxiliary. She was recognized as a Master Gardener by the OSU Extension Service. She enjoyed gardening and sharing the strawberries that she grew with others. She was also a licensed beautician and excellent seamstress.

She is survived by two sons, Michael and his wife Lois Beach of Victoria, Texas, and George Beach of Apache; a daughter, Sandra and husband, James Hanes of Tulsa; three grandchildren, David and Leanne Beach of Lawton, Okla., Doug and Tina Beach, of Apache, and Danny Beach, Lawton; a great-grandson, Jackson Beach, Apache; a sister, Mary Lois and Eugene Snow, of Purcell, Okla.; and a brother, Douglas and Elsie Harper, of Shawnee.

Graveside services were March 27 at the Fairview Cemetery with the Rev. Paul Lutz, pastor of the Cowboy Church, officiating.

To Those I Love and Those Who Love Me

In love memory of Patrick Flickinger

When I am gone relese me, let me go, I have so many things to see and do. You must not tie yourself to me with tears, be thankful for our many wonderful years.

I gave you my love, you can only guess you gave me happiness. I thank you for the love each of you have shown, but now it's time I travel alone. So grieve awhile, if grieve you must, then let your grief be comforted by trust.

It's only for a time that we must part, so keep the memories of me within your heart. I won't be far away, remember: Life goes on.

So if you need me call upon me and I will come, though you can't see or touch me I'll be near, and if you listen with your heart you'll hear my love all around you. So soft so clear.

Then when you must come this way alone I'll be hear to greet you with a smile and outstretched arms, and say welcome home.

With love Amy Quinonez

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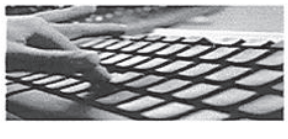

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